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COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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SPECIAL FEATURE

THE GREAT INNOVATOR

In the first part of a new series, we chart how Corgi set out to win the diecast war with a range of inventive play features

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Plus a look at...

□ CRESCENT TOYS

We detail the history of the mous toy figure manufacturer

■ NEWS!

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BEST OF BRITISH
Merrythought -
much more than
teddies!



58 VINTAGE TOYS VALUED

Diecast, model railways plus TV and film memorabilia in our Auction Price Guide



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From The Wrenn Family Collection - Part One

We auction toy and model trains in all gauges by many different makers in at least nine sales a year, rounded off by our special Trains Galore sale on 9 and 10 December, including over 1,200 lots. This year the highlight is the stunning collection of Wrenn Railways mint and boxed ex-factory locomotives and stock from the Wrenn family collection, including several of the first models issued from limited edition runs. Next year, due to high demand, we have added in more special sales: Glorious Trains on 27 and 28 January and 13 and 14 April. Our sales typically include railwayana, 3½in. and 5in. Gauge models, fine scale 0 Gauge and 00 Gauge locomotives and rolling stock, plus commercial models from Märklin, Hornby Series, Bassett-Lowke, Hornby-Dublo, Bing, Carette, ACE Trains, Fulgurex, Aster, Fleischmann, Triang, Hornby Railways, LGB, Bachmann, Trix and Hornby AcHO. We are always taking in consignments for all our sales and are very happy to visit as we travel around the country picking up collections of trains, toys and toy figures.

To consign now, for further information on our regular sales or to get a valuation please contact:
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CONTENTS IN THIS ISSUE...

03 NEWS

The latest news from the world of collecting.

05 NEWS IN BRIEF

A round-up of stories from auctions, toy fairs and more!

15 THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

We look back through some classic issues of the Collectors Gazette.

16 LET THERE BE LIGHT...

David Boxall considers Corgi Toys and its numerous innovations. This time it's lights!

18 DOUBLE O HEAVEN

In the final part of his fascinating series, Mark Nolan tackles the end of Hornby Dublo.

20 WHERE EAGLES DARE

Alwyn Brice takes a look at the intriguing company Crescent Toys - famous for its toy figures.

22 BEST OF BRITISH

Brian Howes is back on form, as he remembers the history of Merrythought.

26 UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Alwyn Brice continues his research into the more unusual toys out there.

29 AUCTION PRICE GUIDE

Find out if your toys could be worth hundreds, if not thousands, in our auction round-up.

34 EBAYS

Our guide to what's been selling well on eBay this month.

36 DELIGHTS IN DORSET

David Boxall looks for collectables at one of Dorset's most popular fairs.

38 TIED UP IN NOTTS

Rob Burman visits Malcolm Townsend's popular Nottingham swapmeet.

39 EVENT GUIDE

Plan your diary for the month ahead with our toy fair and auction listings.

44 OBSOLETE OZ

What has Oz uncovered this month?

46 SALES & EXCHANGE

Buy/sell collectables and place your wanted adverts.

AUCTION REPORT

MAGNIFICENT MATCHBOX

David Detweiler sale nets a cool £132,546 at Vectis Auctions.

ALONG with Corgi and Dinky, Matchbox is certainly one of the most popular (and prolific) vintage diecast manufacturers. Due to the sheer amount of models produced by the Lesney factory, for many the thrill of collecting Matchbox is to try and snap up those unusual colour/model variations produced in very small numbers, often just to use up bits knocking around the factory.

A collector that did just that was David Detweiler, who only collected non-standard production variations of Matchbox Superfast produced by the Lesney factory between 1969 and 1982. He was looking for differences in body and interior, along with base or wheel variations. However, after collecting hundreds of examples, David's collection recently went under the hammer at Vectis Auctions. There were 1,550 lots, which were mostly single lot items, and many had never been sold by the auctioneer before.

In terms of value, the



Matchbox Superfast No. 12a Land Rover Safari.

most sought after piece during the two-day sale was a Matchbox Superfast No. 12a Land Rover Safari, featuring a blue body, brown luggage, white interior without transmission tunnel and five-spoke narrow wheels with black axle clips. "Superb and genuine example of one of the rarest Superfast models made," noted the listing. Estimated at £3,000 to £4,000, the Land Rover sold for £5,400.

Second place went to a Matchbox Superfast No. 45a Ford Group 6 in non-metallic green with a circular No. 7 nose label, clear windows, ivory interior, chrome engine, bare metal base and five-spoke wide wheels. With just a few tiny chips, it was in near mint condition and

realised £2,300... slightly over the top estimate. Another example of the same model but without the nose label and a rare black engine (rather than a chrome-plated engine) sold for £2,200.

Our final four figure lot is a Matchbox Superfast No. 33a Lamborghini Miura pre-production Superfast trial model with a yellow body, clear windows, clear rear engine cover, red interior, bare metal base with front tow slot but without cast rides above/below base text and solid chrome disc prototype Superfast narrow wheels. In good plus to excellent condition, the Lambo realised £1,600. ■



There's some great news for *Thunderbirds* fans this issue, as Corgi is planning a brand new range based on the iconic Gerry Anderson show. Along with Thunderbird 2 and Thunderbird 4 (seen here), Corgi is also producing a model of Lady Penelope's FAB1, along with replicas of Thunderbird 1 and Thunderbird 3. All are due for release in January 2016 priced at £19.99.

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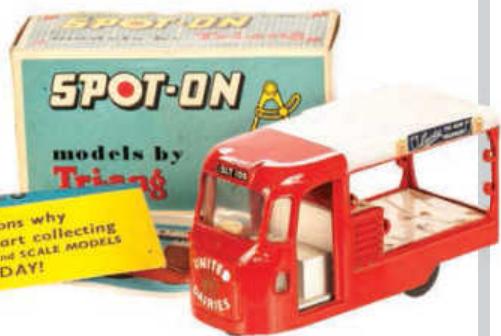


AUCTION REPORT

A SOFT SPOT FOR SPOT-ON

Special Auction Services sells a selection of super Spot-On in its latest Toys for the Collector sale.

No. 122
United
Dairies
Milk Float.



YOU can always bet you're in for a treat at Special Auction Services' regular Toys for the Collector sales. This time among the usual Dinky and Corgi diecast was a particularly nice selection of Tri-ang Spot-On models, covering a wide range of commercial and road vehicles.

Among the top individual lots was a Spot-On No. 315 Commer Window Cleaner's Van, in light blue with ladders and a figure of a window cleaner, complete with its original window box. In very good to excellent condition, with a good to very good box, the van cleaned up at £200, which was £80 over the top

pre-sale estimate.

Just slightly behind No. 315, with a hammer price of £190, was a No.122 United Dairies Milk Float. Finished in red with a white roof and interior, the float came with its original box, club leaflet and collector card and was in very good to excellent condition, along with a very good box.

One of the surprising outcomes was a mixed lot featuring a No. 404 Morris Mini Van with decorator and ladder, along with a No. 210/1 Royal Mail Van with picture and club leaflet. The pair were estimated at £80 to £120 but the hammer fell on £620... how's that for a finish? ■

AUCTION PREVIEW

HOT AT COTTEES

By
E
th



A collection of Volkswagen models from a range of manufacturers.

CC

Wareham is feeling the force this month with a toy sale on the 28th November jam packed with Star Wars and sci-fi goodies. A Darth Vader helmet signed by actor David Prowse and a Boba Fett helmet signed by actor Jeremy Bulloch (the man under that famous mask) will be going under the hammer, just under a month before the release of the latest Star Wars film: The Force Awakens.

The sci-fi and TV-related section of the sale also features a fab Thunderbirds to the Rescue game from the 1960s in original illustrated box and a Danbury Mint Dr Who Chess Set with additional figures.

large private owner collection of Volkswagen models by Schabak, Rio, Vitesse and other high quality manufacturers. And for those James Bond fans, there are two 1/24 scale Danbury Mint James Bond Aston Martin DB5s including one plated in 22 carat gold.

Particularly strong in the model railway section is the quality boxed O gauge items and a good selection of live steam models. The star lot in the OO gauge section is a near mint boxed Hornby Dublo No. 80059 3 rail 2-6-4 3218 tank engine, with an estimate of £220 to £250.

Auctioneer Nell Hilditch said: "There's something for

everyone in this sale - a large model railway and diecast section, as well as a variety of more unusual lots including a Bing Liner. If you're looking for a good Christmas pressie, Cottées will be selling a Doctor Who clothing pattern book and Doctor Who cook book, so you can dress and dine just like your favourite sci-fi hero!"

The sale will be the last toy sale to be held at Cottées' premises in Wareham before the auction house relocates to Poole. The first sale in January is already proving promising with an impressive live steam collection, over one hundred American brass HO models and a rare Dinky Fenwick Delivery Van. ■

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH

OXFORD DIECAST AUSTIN 1300

Release: Out now Price: £4.75

There's new tooling on this 1/76 scale Austin 1300 - the first time the car has appeared in Oxford's 1/76 range. Again, as you would expect from Oxford, the detailing is perfect and the shape is captured wonderfully.

➤ www.oxforddiecast.co.uk

**EXCLUSIVE FIRST EDITIONS LEYLAND NATIONAL MKII LONG 1 DOOR HIGHLAND SCOTTISH**

Release: Out now Price: £34.50

Well, there's certainly no missing the bright orange livery on this new bus from EFE, which is applied nicely. This is fleet number N13 F running on route 45 to Lochy Bridge.

➤ www.exclusivefirsteditions.com

For more new releases visit our website...
[ccofgb.co.uk](http://www.ccofgb.co.uk)

AUCTION REPORT

CORGI TOYS KEEP TAILS WAGGING

C&T Auctioneers sees bidders pay hundreds for Corgi Toys and push prices well over the pre-sale estimates.

A Corgi Toys No. 468 Routemaster Bus in a New South Wales livery was among the best in show at C&T Auctioneers last month. This particular example was a possible pre-production model and came with a certificate, along with 'Mettoy Toys Limited' embossed on the box. Estimated at £400 to £600 the model was in good condition with a good box and sold for £500.

Also on the Corgi front was another possible pre-production model, this time a No. 258 The Saint's Volvo P1800 in white with a red interior and blue bonnet label, complete with a blue printed Corgi Collectors Club leaflet and 'Corgi Toys Limited' embossed on the box. With an estimate of £600 to £800, the Saint's car realised £750.

Continuing our rare Corgi theme is a No. 246 Chrysler Imperial finished with a metallic blue

body, pale blue interior, cast wheel hubs, two figures, golf clubs/trolley and in near mint condition. "A superb example of this hard to find model," stated the description, which certainly helps to explain the £420 price... just slightly over the £400 low estimate.

We'll finish with a No. 249 Mini Cooper with De-Luxe Wickerwork featuring a scarce black roof, yellow interior and number plate stickers, which had been added. In near mint, boxed condition, the hammer price wasn't mini and it sold for £360, which was £60 over the top estimate. ■

**BACHMANN HAWKSWORTH AUTO TRAILER W229W**

Release: Out now **Price:** £68.95

Another super piece of rolling stock from Bachmann, the GWR/Western Region Autotrain are often seen as the perfect one-coach train for smaller layouts. As usual it has Bachmann's usual high finish and attention to detail.

» www.bachmann.co.uk



1218

There are more than 1,000 listings in the Toy Collectors Price Guide 2016.

07

There are seven categories of collectables in this year's *Price Guide*.

132

Toy Collectors Price Guide 2016 includes 132 pages of vintage collectables.

09

See page nine to find out how to order your copy of the *Toy Collectors Price Guide 2016*.

321

There are more than 300 diecast models listed in the diecast section.

NEWS IN BRIEF

» NEW VENUE FOR WARWICK & WARWICK

After staging auctions at the Lord Leycester Hotel for several years, Warwick & Warwick is now returning to its former venue, The Court House in Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EW for all of its sales, commencing with the philatelic auction on January 13th 2016. The Court House is in the same street as the Lord Leycester Hotel, on the opposite side of the road. It is an attractive 18th century building and the sales take place in the ornate ballroom, on the first floor. There is a lift for the disabled. There is no parking at the Court House, however there is ample parking in the nearby public car parks. As previously, there will be no viewing of lots at the auction venue. All viewing, invoice settlement and lot collection will take place at Chalon House.

» MODEL TRACTOR, PLANT & CONSTRUCTION SHOW

The Model Tractor, Plant & Construction Show returns to the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre on Sunday 7th February 2016 for its fifth successful year. Visitors will be treated to displays featuring scratch built, customised and converted models; dioramas; and machinery including fantastic competition entries. Members of the Tamiya Truckin Club will show fantastic live action displays at the show, demonstrating and driving their 1/14 and 1/16 scale radio controlled model construction vehicles. There will also be a number of magnificent full sized vintage tractors on display courtesy of the Warwick Tractor & Vintage Machinery Society (WVTMS) and the Friends of Ferguson Heritage. For more details check www.modeltractorshow.co.uk or call 01926 614101.

» GOOD STUFF AT GOODWIN'S

Auctioneers, John Goodwin, has reported that its very first specialist Toy & Train sale, held recently at the Three Counties Showground was a tremendous success with strong bidding taking place throughout the day in the specialist 600 lot sale of Edwardian and later tinplate toys, diecast, Corgi and Dinky models of the 1950s and 1960s, plus a very large collection of British and Continental model railways from a local collector. As a collection, top prices were paid for a very rare Queen Victoria Rifles Royal Scot locomotive making £200 and a locally named Ludlow Castle 1960s Hornby Dublo boxed model, which made £250.

» NEW DOCTOR WHO TOYS

Toys "R" Us has linked up with Character Options to launch a special collector's series of Doctor Who figures that will be available only in Toys "R" Us Stores in the UK. The new five-inch figure series has been created in response to the great demand from Doctor Who fans who are eager to see the return of the highly detailed larger format. It will include: Clara Oswald, Rose Tyler with K9, Amy Pond in her famed police outfit, three separate Eleventh Doctor figures: one in a purple jacket, another donning a cowboy hat and finally a classically posed Eleventh Doctor with his ubiquitous Sonic device. Four versions of the current and Twelfth Doctor (played by Peter Capaldi) are also part of the line-up. Known for being a rather dapper Time Lord, there is a choice of figure in white, black, purple or polka dot shirt. And last but definitely not least a brand new Eighth Doctor figure as seen in the episode Night of The Doctor. The Eighth Doctor has never been released in the five-inch figure format.

» STAR WARS STAMPS

The December issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart* comes with free Star Wars stamp cards, reproduced from the original artwork but enlarged to postcard size. You can order your copy of the magazine from www.ccofgb.co.uk or call 01778 392480.

AUCTION REPORT

RISE OF THE ROBOTS

Tinplate robots sell for thousands at David Duggleby Auctioneers.



word that alien robots recently invaded the picturesque seaside town of Scarborough, leaving behind a few empty wallets and potentially disappointed collectors. That's right, four of these tinplate terrors caused scenes of chaos at David Duggleby Auctioneers in the resort, as bidders furiously fought to snap up these superb pieces.

Among the more typical model railways and dolls, these items certainly stood out from the crowd. Taking the top spot was a Nomura Tetsujin 28 No. 2, originally

Tsujin is a popular animated character in Japan, appearing in numerous comics and television shows, however toys bearing his impressive image are quite scarce. As such, the example at Duggleby's smashed through the £500 to £600 estimate and realised £950.

It was followed closely behind by a Cragstan Space Conqueror Man of Tomorrow robot, complete with its original box. Although no description of the condition was given, it looked to be excellent in the pictures and sold for £850. Another robot companion was an unspecified

1960s Japanese remote controlled tinplate robot in metallic blue/grey without its box that sold for £400, based on an estimate of just £80 to £120.

We finish with the Dux Astroman that, unlike the pieces mentioned above, was actually made in West Germany, rather than Japan – the home of the tinplate robot. Originally launched in 1959, Astroman was made from plastic instead of tinplate, so is thought by many to be the first plastic remote controlled robot. The example at Duggleby's made £320. ■

AUCTION REPORT

HORSING AROUND

ALTHOUGH Britain is, of course, best known for its huge array of military models, over the years it has produced a wide range of other toy figures that draw inspiration from numerous different sources. One of the firm's most valuable ranges is the Racing Colours series of famous racing horses and their jockeys. Colchester-based auctioneer Reeman Dansie recently had a neat selection of four of these models and all exceeded their top estimate.

First past the post was a Britain's Racing Colours of Famous Owners 'Lord Derby' in its original box and in very good condition, complete with an intact whip. The paintwork was very good, while the box was good. Valued at £80 to £120, Lord Derby whipped up

a storm to sell for £180.

However, it was a photo finish for second place, as 'HH Aga Khan' (whip top missing, some paint loss, box good) and 'HM The King' (minor paint loss, whip intact, box very good) both sold for £170. Finally, in last place, 'Lord Astor' stumbled over the line with his whip top missing, minor paint damage but a very good box, realising £160.

Elsewhere in the auction, a very sleek J. Rosenthal JR21 Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds friction-powered Lady Penelope's FAB1 sold for £120... triple the top estimate. Another treat was a Yonezawa tinplate Winky Robot made in Japan in the 1950s. With no major rust or damage, the robot realised a decent £600. ■



Peter Rixon of Greenslade Taylor Hunt has been in touch to let you know about a very important collection that's due to be sold at the Taunton auctioneer on 4th December. "A local retired gentleman who has been personally touched by the tragedy of infant cot death has decided to sell his Dinky Toys to benefit the charitable work of The Lullaby Trust," explained Peter. "In all he has consigned 21 model cars, the majority purchased from Hallahan's of Aylesbury (Bucks) when he was a teenager in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Most are to be offered as individual lots with estimates from £40." We wish Peter and the team all the best with this charitable gesture.

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH**OXFORD DIECAST MOBILE TRAILER - BOB'S HOT DOGS**

Release: Out now **Price:** £3.95

Considering the tiny size of this diminutive 1/148 hot dog trailer, it's incredible just how much detail Oxford manages to cram in... plus how sharp the printing is. With a good eye, you can read the writing on the price boards. Amazing stuff.

» www.oxford-diecast.com

**HELJAN METROPOLITAN BO-BO**

Release: Out now **Price:** £139.95

Here's a curious release for London Transport fans. Travel back to the 1920s with the Metropolitan-Vickers Bo-Bo, which was part of the second batch of electric trains introduced in London that ran until 1961. A charming and unusual product.

» www.heljan.dk

MATRIX SCALE MODELS JAGUAR E-TYPE LOW DRAG COUPE 1963

Release: Out now **Price:** £74.99

Limited to just 408 pieces (a slightly strange number, we'll grant you), this exceptional Jaguar Matrix certainly has the hallmarks of being a popular piece. The shape and attention to detail is fantastic and Jag fans will be in their element. ■





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109 Pennyburner Trailer	£85	224 Bentley Black/Silver	£140	304 Mercedes Hardtop Lemon	£325
150S Vanwall F1 RN25 Green	£195	225 Bentley green/l/green	£160	304 Mercedes Hardtop Red/Lemon UB	£90
154 Ferrari F1 RN36 Red	£160	226 Morris Mini Metallic Plum	£145	304S Mercedes Hdtop Chrm/Slvr RN3 & 7	£170
200 Ford Consul Grey-Brown Blue box	£180	228 Volvo P1800 Tax	£160	305 Triumph TR3 Met Olive grn flat whls	£160
202 Morris Cowley Bl/Duck Egg Shell Exc	£195	230 Mercedes Benz 220SE Red	£140	309 Aston Martin Competition. Wht/Turq	£190
205M Riley Pathfinder Dk Bl Box	£225	231 Heinkel Bubble Red	£140	310 Chevrolet Stingray Silver Spike whls	£140
206 Hillman Husky Tan Bl Box	£195	237 Oldsmobile Police Car Black/white	£175	310 Chevrolet Stingray Cerise Spun whls	£115
207 Standard Vanguard Rd/Duck Egg	£180	245 Jaguar Mk 10 Met Emerald grn Exc+	£95	302 Hillman Hunter & Kangaroo	£295
207M Standard Vanguard Mech. Lemon.	£280	247 Mercedes Pullman Met Plum	£175	349 Mini Pop Art. Superb. Rare.	£2895
208 Jaguar 2.4 Litre White Blue Box.	£196	252 Rover 2000 Metallic Blue	£130	433 VW Delivery Van White/Red	£190
208S Jaguar 2.4 Litre Lemon	£165	255 Saints White Red lbl Spun w	£275		
209 Riley Police Car Black	£175	259 Citroen Le Dandy Plum.	£130		
210S Citroen DS19 Red	£160	263 Merlin Rambler Red/Black	£95		

THIS IS A SMALL SELECTION, MANY OTHER DINKY, CORGI, TEKNO, SPOT-ON & PATHFINDER MAY BE VIEWED ON THE WEBSITE
Models mint and boxed unless stated. Visit www.diecastgems.com or for all Dinky www.dinkyforsale.com

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NEWS

IN-DEPTH

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HOBBY**AUCTION REPORT**

GOING BATTY

Four tinplate Batmobiles sold for £700 at Toy Auctions.

THERE'S no doubting the lasting power of Batman. Considering the Caped Crusader has been around for 75 years, there's still something wonderfully iconic about the superhero and his sidekick Robin. In particular those toys that were produced in the 1960s, alongside the superbly camp television series have remained particularly collectable and it was a selection of these items that took the top spots at British Toy Auctions recently.

For Batmobile fans, a



Batmobile (No. CG-1228B).

blinking warning lights and flashing signalling rockets in near mint condition realised £500. A similar blue edition by Cien GE Toys in excellent condition sold for £400, while a red edition from a Taiwanese company realised £300. Overall, not a bad haul for Batfans.

While we're on the subject of Batman, a slightly less iconic vehicle used by the Dynamic Duo was the Batplane, as replicated by AHI. Made in blue plastic and featuring Batman in the cockpit, the plane included folding wings, blinking lights, jet engine sound and turning action. With a pre-sale estimate of £200 to £300, the plane soared to £250. ■

Meanwhile, a battery powered tinplate Batmobile from ASC No. 1-175, finished in red and with mystery action, jet engine noise,

HOBBY NEWS

TOY COLLECTORS PRICE GUIDE 2016

Your annual guide to auction prices around the world is available to buy NOW!

IF you've been a regular reader of the *Collectors Gazette* for a while, then you'll know that each year we publish something called the *Toy Collectors Price Guide*, which brings together hundreds of auction prices from around the world, along with full colour pictures, to help you put a potential

estimate on your collection.

Well, this year is no different and we're pleased to announced that the *Toy Collectors Price Guide 2016* is available to buy now... either direct from us at Warners or on the high street at WHSmith. Priced at £6.99, the guide clocks in at an impressive 132 pages and features more than

1,200 collectables, totaling a whopping £175,000.

In terms of the collectables covered, we've got a bumper diecast section, along with model railways, toy figures, tinplate, TV and film memorabilia and other toys, games and collectables. There's also an expanded eBay section, which will

give you a good idea of how much your toys might be worth, should you choose to sell them yourself.

To order your copy for £6.99 plus postage and packaging, visit www.ccofgb.co.uk or call 01778 392480. ■



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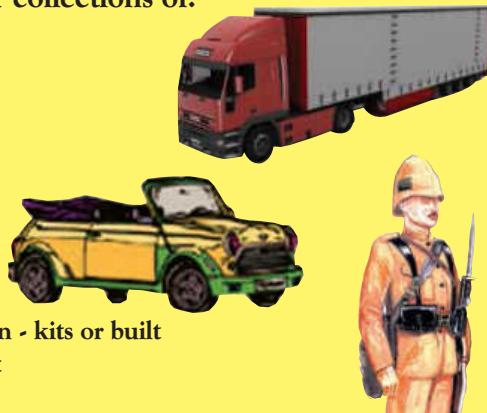
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AUCTION REPORT

RECORD BREAKER

East Bristol Auctions' latest sale was a record-breaking event.

EAST Bristol Auctions, Games, Trains and Automobiles sale on 24th October broke its own previous record, with 730 lots and more than 1,500 commission bids left prior to the sale. With such a huge amount of interest leading up to the auction, it's no surprise some fabulous toys found new homes.

With James Bond and Star Wars being arguably two of the most collectable franchises – both of which have new films out this year – it's no surprise that collectables inspired by these famous movies were among the best sellers.

One of the collections featured in the sale was a superb selection of Star Wars LEGO. Each set was used but in 'as new'



Is this the "best model car ever"?

good boxes that had been meticulously checked for completeness, which meant that the prices achieved were some of the highest known for such sets.

Leading the way in East Bristol's sale was the infamous LEGO Millennium Falcon No. 10179, which sold for an intergalactic price of £1,800. One of the largest LEGO sets ever created, it was made to the scale of the LEGO Minifigures and is extremely impressive when built. Originally purchased for just £200 when released in 2006, this set alone perfectly illustrates the value, and collectability, of LEGO at the moment. From the same collection, the LEGO Death Star No. 10188 sold for £360,

LEGO Star Wars Millennium Falcon.



a No. 6211 Imperial Star Destroyer realised £280 and a No. 10144 Sand Crawler made £220.

Taking everyone by surprise on the day was an original 1/8 scale Eaglemoss James Bond Aston Martin DB5. Catalogued as 'one of the best models known', the Aston shot past its £200 to £300 estimate, selling to a buyer on the telephone for £1,600. A fierce bidding war between the room, the internet and finally two telephones ended the battle with the Aston Martin heading to a collector in Israel. The car, which came from a week-by-week magazine, is now a highly sought after collectors item. "It is genuinely the best model of any car I have ever seen," remarked toy specialist Andrew Stowe. ■

AUCTION REPORT

IN BED WITH BOND

A collection of James Bond memorabilia, plus a rare Dan Dare gun, leaves the bidders shaken and stirred at Mullock's.

DON'T worry dear reader, we haven't gone a bit raunchy with that headline... no, we are in fact referring to one of the interesting lots in the Mullock's auction on 20th October, which included a mixed selection of rather eclectic James Bond memorabilia.

Included in the lot was a 33rpm soundtrack from Thunderball, along with two James Bond 007 annuals. However, the item that really caught the eye was a Gildrose 1965 pillow case complete with some super illustrations of Bond, his iconic DB5 and some scantily clad ladies. How anyone could go to sleep on this impressive pillow, we'll never know. Estimated at £180 to £200, the auctioneer wasn't caught snoozing and the hammer went down on £180.



Elsewhere in the sale, a Merit Dan Dare Space Pilot Three Colour Super-Sonic Gun with High Frequency Resonator made £220, which was £70 over the top estimate. Complete with its original box, this is one of the more uncommon Dan Dare toys, which helps to explain that impressive hammer price. ■

NEXT MONTH JANUARY 2016

» PLAYCRAFT RAILWAYS

Mark Nolan takes a look at this small range of toy locomotives.

» EASY AS ABC...

A new series by Alwyn Brice starts next issue. Don't miss it!

» STAR WARS

With a new film in cinemas, we track down the most valuable Star Wars collectables.



*Editorial contents may be subject to change where necessary

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BOOK REVIEW

SPITFIRE IN MY WORKSHOP

Rick Wilson reviews a new book detailing the building of an incredible 1/5 scale model Spitfire.

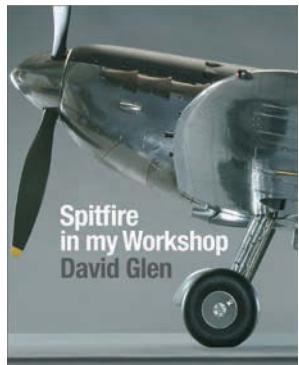
Title: Spitfire in my

Workshop

Publisher: Brown & Brown

Price: £39.99

SPITFIRE IN my Workshop is a 192-page epic that chronicles the building of a remarkable 1/5 scale museum model of Britain's most iconic fighter aircraft. It takes the reader on an 11-year journey, revealing in painstaking detail the myriad techniques used by a master model maker to create a rivet-for-rivet replica of the original. From cockpit instruments with needles that stand proud on their dials, to individual stitches in the rudder fabric, to air



The model in all its glory.

valves in the landing wheels – nothing is overlooked; nothing is compromised. In the words of a wartime pilot who flew Spitfires: "The only thing missing is the oil drop in the mirror"!

Written with wit, humour

and a touch of pathos, this is a book that offers a glimpse of the agony and ecstasy that is model making at this level, from despair when things go wrong to the euphoria of seeing the finished masterpiece unveiled for

permanent public display at Britain's most prestigious aviation museum, RAF Hendon. *Spitfire in my Workshop* is written to inform, guide and inspire others to extend the envelope of their model making skills.

But the story it tells and its magnificent photographs of a matchless model of an iconic aircraft give it far broader appeal.

This incredible book is an essential read for any aviation heritage enthusiast and also provides a wealth of detail for any model collector wanting to upgrade an existing Spitfire model release. Beautifully printed on quality paper and presented in a superb glossy wraparound dustjacket, it is only available direct from the publishers (Brown & Brown), check www.spifireinmyworkshop.net for more details. ■

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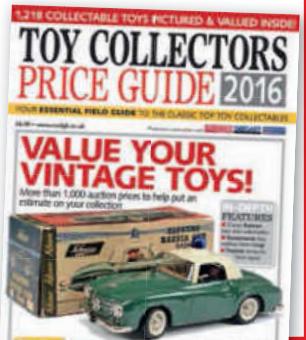
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Through the Archives

In the latest of our new series, we remember the good old days with a classic *Collectors Gazette*.

The front cover of the July 1989 issue should be immediately recognisable to Corgi collectors, as it features breaking news about Marcel van Cleemput's *The Great Big Book of Corgi*. Nowadays it's considered to be the bible of Corgi collecting and there was certainly some excitement regarding the release in the *Collectors Gazette*. "Corgi enthusiasts cannot afford to miss this most important publishing event since Corgi diecast models" stated the lead article.

Alongside this, the other big feature was an interview with Ron Ping about the formation of Exclusive First Editions. It has the "potential to make a big impact on the toy and model scene" stated the *Gazette* in reference to EFE's new plans. Of course, that statement was spot-on and Exclusive First Editions is still producing some top quality models to this day.

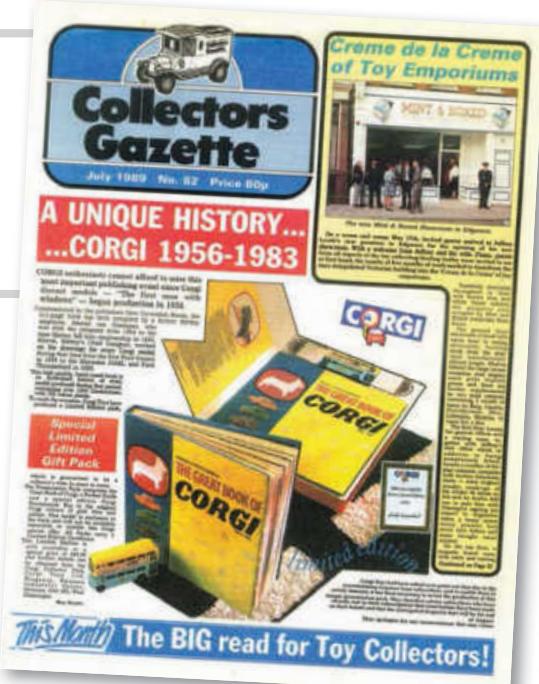
Meanwhile, on the advertising front, it was interesting to see a large half-page advert for Christie's, which was planning the Meccano Museum Sale. Of course, at one point Christie's really was the premier toy auctioneer with some truly spectacular lots for collectors before it sadly decided to concentrate on other areas of the antique market.

Elsewhere there was a little celebrity in the pages of the *Gazette*, courtesy of TV personality Gyles Brandreth who was celebrating the first anniversary of The Teddy Bear Museum in Stratford-upon-Avon. "We have bears of every shape and size from more than 20 different countries," explained Gyles. Sadly the museum has since closed its doors and part of the collection of teddies has moved to the Polka Theatre in London... actually, in a strange link to the above paragraph, many of the bears that were previously on display were sold at Christie's in 2007.

Finally there's a large report from the Windsor swapmeet, which at the time was the swapmeet by which all others were judged. Forget Sandown or Birmingham, Windsor was where it was at. The *Gazette* reported that people were queuing around the venue to get inside and punters were even trading in the car park before the venue was officially opened. What a sight that must have been! CG

ISSUE
No. 82
1989

This issue we're approaching the end of the 1980s, with an issue of the *Gazette* from July 1989. So do you remember any of these key events? Britain's dock workers went on strike in protest about the abolition of the Dock Labour Scheme, 1,500 British tourists are delayed by French air traffic control strikes and Police Academy six was in cinemas.



LEFT

It's Gyles Brandreth bringing a little celebrity glamour to 1989.

RIGHT

At the bottom of the page you can see a very bold advert from Christie's. Sadly the London auctioneer no longer has toy sales but it certainly had a reputation for quality.



LEFT

There was a "growing interest" in plastic toy figures apparently in 1989, as we reported from the 4th UK Toy and Model Soldier Show.

BELLOW

A large report from Windsor, which at the time was the biggest and most popular swapmeet in the UK. People would travel from all over the country (and Europe for that matter) to attend this cracking event.



Let there be light...

all considers the lights used by Corgi Toys, which led to one of Corgi's most ingenious innovations.



ABOVE In 1961, Corgi released the Bentley Continental as model No. 224, with jewelled headlights.

RIGHT Corgi released the Rover 2000 as model No. 252, with the all-new 'Trans-o-lite' system on board.



COLLECTORS GAZETTE FACT SHEET

+ INNOVATE TO SURVIVE

In some ways, the competition between the different diecast manufacturers in the 1960s was a little like the space race, with firms like Dinky and Corgi working to outdo their competition with ever more elaborate and spectacular play features. In a future issue David will be looking at more of Corgi's great innovations, such as opening doors and bonnets, plus we'll be reviewing some of the fantastic play features on Corgi's various TV and film-inspired models. So make sure you stay tuned!

Throughout the production of Corgi toys, from the launch in 1956, to the present day, Corgi has always been one of the market leaders. The nature of innovation in manufacturing, is usually concerned with positive changes to a product and during the 1960s, Corgi was the master of innovation, as it was very often the first company to try a particular gadget or new feature in its toys.

At the launch of Corgi Toys in 1956, competition from other toy makers and manufacturers from around the world was just gaining pace. Many of these were producing similar diecast models, and so it was important right from the very beginning that Corgi

set itself the standards, both in relation to choice and quality.

The Corgi Toys 'lights' story begins with 'silver trim', and follows with landmark developments throughout the 1960s. All the cars up until 1961 had silver front lights, which were either painted or mask sprayed onto the car. As well as the lights, the spray mask would also fit around other areas of silver work and complete the process in one go. A good example, and one of my favourite cars, is the Jaguar 2.4 litre, released as model No. 2085 in October 1960. This car had a number of refinements, including an interior and suspension. It was a popular car and achieved 256,000 sales. The front of this car had silver headlights, side lights, grille

are well defined and perfectly adequate – until 1961.

In 1961, Corgi released the Bentley Continental as model No. 224. It appeared in two-tone black and silver, or apple green and cream. It was a very stylish, luxury car with an interior, opening boot, steering, chrome bumpers and grill. A car like this clearly needed a great deal more than silver paint for the headlights. Corgi fitted this model with 'twinkly' jewelled front headlights, and ruby red rear stop lights, which completed the car and maintained that first class look. I am sure that the combination of all the extra attractions on this car boosted the sales figures. It achieved 964,000 sales, and I have no doubt that the jewelled headlights played

meanings for saloon cars were to develop further but in the meantime, Corgi had its focus on another functional light altogether. In 1962, the Superior Ambulance on Cadillac Chassis was released as model No. 437. This emergency vehicle had a main light on the roof, and four subsidiary lights at each corner – just like the real thing. The flashing light was battery powered from the main body of the vehicle, and the four smaller lights were illuminated through transparent plastic rods from the main light source – a fantastic idea. Vehicles with working features were always very popular, and working lights certainly 'ticked the box'. According to the Great Book of Corgi, this vehicle achieved 1,287,000



One of my favourite cars - the Jaguar 2.4 litre, released as model No. 208S in October 1960.

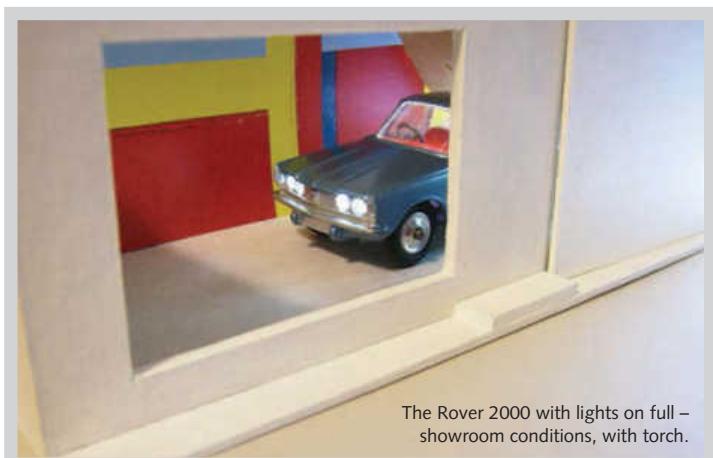


The Superior Ambulance on Cadillac Chassis was released as model No. 437. This emergency vehicle had a main light on the roof, and four subsidiary lights at each corner – just like the real thing.

RIGHT In 1963, Corgi released the Commer Police Van as model No 464. Once again, this vehicle had a working light.



In 1967, Corgi released the Lincoln Continental Executive Limousine, as model No. 262, with working TV.



The Rover 2000 with lights on full – showroom conditions, with torch.

es, until it was withdrawn in 1966.

In 1963, Corgi released the Commer Police Van as model No. 464. Once again, this vehicle had a working light. The model had a cam on the front axle, which rotated and connected then disconnected on each cycle. The battery was held in the main body of the van, where the grille and opaque covering of the side windows prevented any view of the interior. This first version of the Commer Police Van was available until 1967 and was then replaced with a new version with a blue light, which was released with the same model number. The Commer Police Van went on to achieve 438,000 sales.

We can now return to headlights, as in 1963, Corgi released the Rover 2000 as model No 252. This excellent model was issued in metallic blue with a red interior, or deep maroon with a cream

interior. It had luxurious suspension but no opening features. It did, however, have the all-new 'Trans-o-lite' system on board. This was a fabulous new light system, which conveyed light from a 'light box' straight to the front headlights. The light box formed part of the rear

were possible at the time. If a torch was used to shine light into the light box, then the headlights came full on. We managed to rig up a demonstration with the help of a few Corgi mechanics (out of shot). The Rover was an ideal choice for this new system as it had twin

innovations was yet to come and in 1967 Corgi released the Lincoln Continental Executive Limousine, as model No. 262. Not only was this car very large, long and luxurious but it was full of special features. The vehicle was issued in either metallic bronze with

the rear passengers, there was a working television. According to the Great Book of Corgi, a 'strip of opaque, coloured pictures' was supplied with the car. Each of the pictures could be 'inserted at the front of the screen to give the appearance of a colour TV'. Access to the battery unit was via the base of the car. What a great feature – no wonder that the car went on to achieve 516,000 sales, together with those from 1969.

The selected light features reveal the development and progress that was undertaken by Corgi Toys. In just seven years the use of light features had changed quite dramatically, much to the delight of collectors both young and old. CG

The Rover achieved 384,000 sales, and was probably one of the few cars that were driven around the darker corners of the house with a torch in tow – great fun.

window and looked like a 1960s de-mister attachment, which were very popular at the time. Corgi had developed the transparent pipes, which it had first used in the Superior Ambulance (No. 437), in order to give the Rover 2000 the most realistic front lights that

pairs of front lights, which emphasised the innovation very well indeed. The Rover achieved 384,000 sales, and was probably one of the few cars that were driven around the darker corners of the house with a torch in tow – great fun.

One of the most ingenious

a black textiled roof and deep red interior, or light blue with a beige roof and blue interior. Both cars were carpeted (flock sprayed) in their respective colours, and had jewelled headlights, an opening bonnet, boot, and doors. All the trim was in chrome, and deep inside for

Double Oheaven

HORNBY DUBLO

PART 4

In the final part of his fascinating series, **Mark Nolan** reaches the end of Hornby Dublo.



ABOVE E3002 electric loco had overhead current collection from working pantographs, although using it in this mode required catenary not made by Hornby but available from Tri-ang.

FACT SHEET

+ THE BOOK OF DUBLO

Probably one of the biggest drivers of the appreciation of OO scale collectable trains was the Hornby Companion series from New Cavendish Books. In particular Michael Foster's book 'Hornby Dublo Trains' first published in 1980 was perfectly timed to catch the attention of the boys of the '50s as they started to get nostalgic about the toys of their youth. Look out for the later editions which have an extra pictures supplement.

We've seen how Meccano was the first UK toy company to launch a complete electric OO gauge model railway system in 1938. Let's remind ourselves how important that was; clockwork power involved precision engineering, there was a lack of control over the engine once you set it running. Being able to control toy trains remotely, speeding up, slowing down and stopping was a big deal. Not to mention the indefatigable nature of small electric motors. In a country where mains electricity was still being rolled out nationally, being able to drive an electric train around your bedroom was, for many, an unattainable dream.

THE NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE

So miniature electric trains were expensive and new, and Dublo led the field. But from the mid '50s a brash upstart was challenging Hornby's dominance.

If Liverpool gave us Meccano and the Beatles, the south responded with Tri-ang and the Rolling Stones.

Part of the Lines Brothers organisation, Tri-ang started producing a cheaper range of trains incorporating more plastic and more interchangeable parts. As the range matured, it became a more serious threat to the dominance of Dublo. Unfortunately the two ranges were incompatible due to their couplings. Sooner or later there was going to be a showdown of epic proportions.

THE END OF THE INNOCENCE

As a result of Meccano's previous successes, here was a company with a strong sense of duty and a responsibility towards its customers. While this ethos was reflected in the quality of the products, they came with a huge price premium. Meccano's inbuilt reluctance to compromise, combined with institutional inertia,

meant that a perfect storm was brewing; a combination of over-production of new lines, declining turnover, rapid changes in the market, and new products and technologies emerging. In the end, the downfall was shockingly quick. Having previously bestrode the toy world the Meccano empire imploded in two short years. A tragic end to the story.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

On the commercial front, 1961/2 was the last good year for Meccano Limited: Dublo sales for that year had been £853,000, but for the ensuing year only £432,000; a disastrous halving of turnover just when so much had been invested in new products. For the first half of 1963 Dublo sales were running at less than a third of the previous year's dismal figures.

By 1964, no amount of adjustments could realistically have saved the range. Desperate measures, like a deal to license and launch Play-Doh in the UK were too little, too late. On 14th February, with the company on the verge of bankruptcy, Lines Brothers bought the whole capital of Meccano Limited for £781,000. During January, 3

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

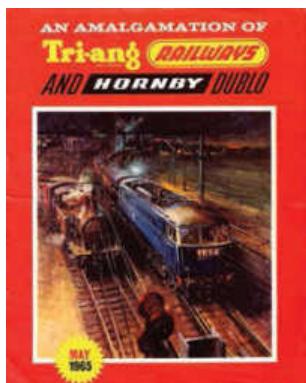
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HOBBY

RIGHT Super Detail Restaurant Car 4071; sadly arrived too late to be as plentiful as its contemporaries. Its rarity has ensured prices up to £150.



LEFT This rare flyer describes job lots of models offered to dealers at the end of 3 rail production. These bundles included many of the late period 3 rail locos that are worth hundreds of pounds today.

RIGHT The 1965 amalgamation leaflet appeared to offer a marriage of the two systems, but it was clear that Hornby would continue in name only with the adoption of the name "Tri-ang Hornby".



The final coach in the Super Detail range; the 6 wheel passenger brake 4076 typifies



rail clearance bargain packs had already been promoted to all dealers, and the end of 3 rail was announced to the public in March. By late summer all the remaining 3 rail items had been

of which the greatest stocks remained, it was clear that Hornby would continue in name only with the adoption of the "Tri-ang Hornby" title. As a result of the takeover, the Hornby name survived,

continued support for 3 rail may also have been for pragmatic reasons; there were still huge stocks of unsold and now obsolete 3 rail models.

The amount of unsold stock inherited by the Lines Group

in the warehouse, more than any genuine expectation that the models were needed to enhance Tri-ang's range.

3 RAIL BUNDLES

In an attempt to shift stock, job lots of models were offered to dealers at the end of 3 rail production. These bundles included many of the late period 3 rail locos that are worth hundreds of pounds at today's prices. Given the chance, my choice would have been Selection D for £13-17-10 which included the 2-6-4 tank, Ludlow Castle, the 8F goods loco and City of Liverpool; an easy grand's worth.

MERGING WITH TRI-ANG

There were lots of reasons why a merger with Tri-ang was going to be difficult. For a start, the four Tri-ang and two Dublo track systems were never compatible. Even worse, there was a massive difference between Tri-ang and Dublo couplings, which meant it was never going to be possible to amalgamate the two systems. The riveted fixing of both couplings made changing them very difficult, even for a keen hobbyist. The only solution was converter wagons, with different couplings at each end. But this was never going to be a desirable or permanent solution. Although the Hornby name was a great asset for Tri-ang to acquire, the rump of unsold Dublo stock was a problem rather than a benefit.

Digesting Meccano could easily have caused Lines Brothers problems as well as benefits.

£100, whereas its 3 rail counterpart Ludlow Castle could make £300-400. Dorchester is worth three times as much as Barnstaple, likewise City of Liverpool compared with City of London. 80059 trumps 80033, and 48074 beats 48073. The closing years of the Hornby-Dublo system left us some of Dublo's most endearing eccentricities, all commanding higher prices than the more common products from Dublo's golden age. Collectors speak in hushed tones about the 5015 plastic girder bridge and the green roof signal cabin; the elegant super detail 4071 Restaurant Car and the frankly ugly 4654 Rail Cleaning Wagon. Then there is the E3002 electric loco with working pantographs, but no overhead wires to go with it. Publicity shots used catenary supplied by Tri-ang.

ODE TO THE 6 WHEEL PASSENGER BRAKE

Is it a coach, is it a wagon? The six wheeled passenger brake van No. 4076 was the last Super Detail coach to be issued. It typifies the idiosyncratic choices which Hornby made during what would prove to be its twilight years. Using a mix of tinplate and plastic, the model has few common parts so most had to be moulded specially. The prototype was not common even in its day, and there was no obvious demand for a model of it, although it could run on both passenger and freight trains. The model had an unusual arrangement of six wheels and an odd coupling design.

Many of the locos introduced for 2 rail had updated or new 3 rail counterparts. These have different running numbers and command a high premium with collectors. For example, a 2 rail Denbigh Castle loco will be worth no more than

Having previously bestrode the toy world, the Meccano empire imploded in two short years. A tragic end to the story.

purchased by Beatties, the very last few "proper" Dublo items had been released, and plans were in hand to lay the once proud range to rest. An "Amalgamation Leaflet" of May 1965 appeared to offer a marriage of the two systems, but apart from offering five locos and various accessories

ironically attached to the Tri-ang trains that were instrumental in its downfall.

UNSOLD STOCK

The continuation of 3 rail, rather than its total replacement, is often cited as the straw that broke the camel's back. But the

produces some alarming figures. There were well over 100,000 coaches, and 126,000 wagons. Tri-ang did integrate as much as it could, although the choice of which Dublo models continued after the changeover was probably dictated by the numbers of models sitting

COLLECTING DUBLO

The rarest and most valuable Hornby-Dublo items are early (pre-war) or late period (1963/4). The majority of Dublo products are long lived and in plentiful supply, particularly 3 rail from the golden age, and early 2 rail from 1958-62.

Many of the locos introduced for 2 rail had updated or new 3 rail counterparts. These have different running numbers and command a high premium with collectors. For example, a 2 rail Denbigh Castle loco will be worth no more than

CG

Where Eagles

Alwyn Brice recounts the story of a great British manufacturer: Crescent Toys.



had a jolly good try back in the 1960s. Here is an example of its waterline models.

COLLECTORS FACT SHEET

+ LICENSE TO THRILL
Crescent wasn't adverse to paying a license fee in order to make toys inspired by famous TV shows or films. As mentioned in the main text, Crescent made guns from Bond and The Man from UNCLE but it also produced figures inspired by British greats like Thunderbirds and Dan Dare. The latter are particularly rare and a full set in decent condition can make as much as £1,000, while even individual unboxed figures can fetch around the £100 mark.

Cwas yet another great British toy manufacturer that made the transition from lead to plastic but which sadly expired a couple of decades later: in this instance, the factory closed in 1980.

The brains behind the enterprise was a family by the name of Eagles: Henry (one of seven children) was aided by one Arthur Schneider (who would change his name to Harvey), and the pair set up shop in London in 1922. In fact, the family later split, with a move to begin manufacturing in Wales: Arthur opted to stay in London, though, and subsequently set up the Harvey Toy Company, seeking the aid of DCMT (who had previously supplied machinery to Crescent and who also did subcontractor

production was tied to moulds derived from the Reka company, which Crescent purchased early on and this established its toehold in the market. Hollowcast was the name of the game in the 1930s and the 1940s and Crescent had to battle the likes of Britains, among others. Toy soldiers were all well and good but it became clear that more strings to the proverbial bow were required – and in this, Crescent excelled. While its toy figures are still commonly sighted today, equally, many of its other products have refused to lie down and become forgotten. As a toy manufacturer, its range of output was impressive, to say the least – and as such, it attracted rival attention in various other toy fields, as we shall see in a moment.

That's a tough one to answer because there are so many subsets here, ranging from wheeled transport through kitchen accessories to firearms and shipping, and I simply can't list it all. You could, for example, opt for racing cars of the 1950s, which are a collection in itself; there are ten in all to find and these diecast models, made from 1956 to 1958 or so, include the curvaceous D-type Jaguar and a lovely streamlined Mercedes-Benz. They are arguably of better quality (for the time) than that of main rival Dinky. There are petrol pumps around, too.

One of the most common Crescent toys you'll come across is the Saladin Armoured Car with its limber and 25lb field gun. It was a

plica (up there with Britains in quality) and many seem to have survived in boxed condition: it shouldn't cost an arm and a leg, either.

If you're a royal regalia fan, then you'll probably want to own an example of the Queen's Coronation Coach from 1953. Crescent wasn't the first to market this model (that honour went to Lesney) but the eight horses, four postillions and gold coach are beautifully done – and if you can find the box, it's a colourful delight, bedecked with flags and flowers and champagne corks.

Insofar as sidearms were concerned, Crescent manufactured enough to start a small war: James Bond devotees will be interested in the fabled Walther PPK that was released alongside For Your Eyes Only, and which



LEFT This army group is somewhat typical of the mish-mash of contents that can be found in a given set. The tinplate sentry box lacks a guard – and who's in charge of the mortar? But kids didn't care...



Just one example of a wide range of pistols, repeaters and rifles that Crescent brought to the marketplace. Note the bottle of oil that's included.



This is the less-encountered window box set; most of the Robin Hood series figures that you find seem to have derived from Kellogg's cereal packets!

BELOW Check out the box art on this gorgeous example.



All the elements are here for instant play: diecast car and ramp, lead mechanic, oil dispenser and petrol pumps.



shows a youthful Roger Moore on the box art. There's a Luger, too, with scope and shoulder stock, apeing the Man from UNCLE Illya Kuryakin's favourite firearm. There's even a tinplate and plastic Space Squadron Sonic Beam Ray Gun out

as the local cinema in the 1950s and 1960s. In releasing all these models, Crescent was undoubtedly mindful of the huge Lone*Star presence in the marketplace.

Then there were the waterline models, for it wasn't only Tri-ang that was

hollowcast figures). On the subject of boxed sets, there are many to find, including a lovely little group including a police car, a bobby and two villains, entitled "Calling all Cars". This is typical of the thought that went into some of the Crescent lines.

derived from the moulds of others (it purchased the previously mentioned Reka around 1932), it did go on to produce its own figurines.

Wartime output, like that of many of its rivals, focussed on the military side of things: that would change once peace settled on Europe. Collectors of the hollowcast models have plenty to choose from, including the ever-popular Guardsmen (with instruments as well as with rifles) and Highlanders: it seems that it was virtually impossible for a manufacturer not to make both! Pre-war and post-war output encompassed British troops and there are some interesting examples to watch out for, like the wireless operator with a set and antenna, a chap with wire cutters tackling a barbed wire fence and a Bren gunner, lying prone. Boxed sets included a light gun carrying party, a mortar crew and a group with a sound locator and range finder, very much à la Skybirds. Zoo animals, wild animals, farm animals and the ubiquitous cowboys and Indians, along with knights and railway staff and accessories, were all made, as were civilian subjects,

like a hospital set and a schoolroom. Space was also explored, thanks to Dan Dare's popularity in the 1950s.

Switching to plastic around 1956, the Crescent line received fresh impetus: the Wild West continued to hold sway (Crescent supplied Kellogg's with both cowboy and Indian premiums, incidentally) but Mohicans and US cavalry were also added to the mix. Arabs, the Foreign Legion and ACW subjects also featured and wartime infantry from various countries found their way into the toyshops. Kellogg's would also benefit from astronauts with detachable plastic helmets and a series of six Robin Hood figures: these are common at swapmeets half a century on, although most of the space explorers you encounter are likely to be minus their headgear.

I'll stop here. If this has whetted your appetite, then I'm sure you'll find plenty of enjoyment in collecting Crescent. CG

As a toy manufacturer, its range of output was impressive, to say the least – and as such, it attracted rival attention in various other toy fields, as we shall see.

there (imagine walking into your local toy emporium at a tender age and asking for that!). Then, of course, there are plenty of Wild West six shooters and rifles; after all, the untamed western country filled the small screen as well

buoyant on the waves... or in the bath tub. Charmingly, some boxed examples came with a couple of (bigger scale) sailors for good measure (which leads me to believe that the company was merely using up old stocks of

THE FIGURES

Which brings us on to the figures, arguably what Crescent has become famous for: Crescent was prolific when it came to the area of toy soldiers. While its very early production was actually

Best of British Merrythought:

Brian Howes guides you through the history of Merrythought, one of Britain's most famous soft toy manufacturers.

It is very appropriate that I have chosen to celebrate the achievements of this great British toy maker for our December issue, as Merrythought has put smiles on the faces of countless children as they unwrap their presents on Christmas Day and still continues to do so.

My dear sister still recalls how thrilled she was when she received her lovely Merrythought Noddy nightdress case way back on Christmas Day in 1961. It was a Merrythought Big Ears that came out of my Christmas stocking that day, as we were both kids raised on those magical Enid Blyton stories. Sadly though my Big Ears was soon adopted by our dog as her toy and she dragged him into her basket on a daily basis!

2015 sees Merrythought celebrate its 85th birthday and although many people immediately think of teddy bears when this company is mentioned, Merrythought has made so much more than bears throughout its long and illustrious history. Its first products were made during the early 1930s and included a host of endearing character toys all of which are highly prized by collectors today.

To trace the history of Merrythought you have to turn the clock back to the years following World War One when there were great changes taking place in the textile industry here in Britain.

It was in 1907 that two businessmen, Mr W.G. Holmes and Mr G. H. Laxton, joined forces to open a small spinning mill in Yorkshire with the sole aim of manufacturing mohair yarn from materials imported from overseas. One of their chief customers was a plush weaving firm called Dyson Hall & Co Ltd of Huddersfield whose business, by the early 1920s, was becoming badly affected by the introduction of new synthetic fibres including 'Art silk Plush'. In 1925, regardless of the decline in demand for mohair plush fabric, Holmes and Laxton decided to buy Dyson Hall's ailing plush weaving

J.K. Farnell, which were both hugely successful soft toy manufacturers. Rendle brought several key workers with him from Chad Valley and the Merrythought factory was born in September 1930, occupying a rented room at a former foundry building at Coalbrookdale in Shropshire (now a World Heritage Site). A wishbone motif was incorporated as the company trademark as Merrythought is an old English term for a wishbone.

One of the workers who came to the new Merrythought works from Chad Valley was a hugely talented lady called Florence Atwood. She was

by Eleanor Atkinson. Merrythought's first teddy bear, the Magnet Bear, also appeared in 1931 and was advertised as "a really cheap line". A second Merrythought catalogue followed in 1932 with more cute teddies alongside farm animals, domestic animals and wild animals. Dolls were added to the range in 1933 initially as simple toys for babies, although by 1937 Merrythought dolls had developed into fully articulated felt 'art dolls'. Large ride-along toys were first made in 1933 as the company continued to prosper and expand its catalogue.

By the outbreak of war in



2015 sees Merrythought celebrate its 85th birthday and although many people immediately think of teddy bears when this company is mentioned, Merrythought has made so much more than bears throughout its long and illustrious history.



business in the hope of finding a good commercial use for genuine mohair fabric.

The answer, they decided, was to make soft toys – a market that had seen a rise in fortune in Britain following the ban imposed on the import and sale of German made toys during the war. With little knowledge of the toy making market, Holmes and Laxton turned to two key men already hugely experienced in this industry: Clifton J. Rendle and Henry Janisch. Rendle had been in charge of production at the Chad Valley Toy Company at Harborne near Birmingham, while Janisch had been in charge of sales at

a deaf mute who had been educated and trained in design at the deaf and dumb school in Manchester alongside the daughter of Clifton Rendle. At Chad Valley Florence had worked under the renowned toy designer Norah Wellings and it was Florence's creative skills that set Merrythought on its way to success. Florence Atwood created the full range of the first 32 soft toys contained in Merrythought's 1931 catalogue. As well as creating many of her own designs she also adapted drawings by famous artists of the day and characters from literature including Greyfriars Bobby a small Skye Terrier based on a book

September 1939 Merrythought had expanded its workforce to more than 200 people before the factory was taken over by the Government and used as a store for Admiralty charts and for map-making work. A small subsidiary Merrythought factory was opened at nearby Wellington during the war where a workforce of around eight people made a range of cloth and fabric items to support the war effort, including sleeve badges and helmet linings.

Production of toys resumed at Coalbrookdale in March 1946, although disaster struck when the river Severn burst its banks and flooded the factory





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**ABOVE**

As well as standard teddies, Merrythought made pyjama cases like this. *Pictures courtesy of Vectis.*

**ABOVE**

This is one of the earlier Merrythought bears, dating from around the 1950s. It's got that classic appearance.

**ABOVE**

Merrythought's link with Disney meant it produced numerous Disney-inspired soft toys, like Thumper from Bambi.

**ABOVE**

When pandas first arrived at British zoos, Merrythought was quick off the mark to produce panda teddies.

**ABOVE**

Along with more traditional bears, Merrythought made numerous other animals too, like this delightful dog.

**ABOVE**

Here's a modern replica of Merrythought's fantastic Bonzo dog - just one of the company's licensed products.

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Military Figurines



Under the spotlight



This month finds **Alwyn Brice** doing his bit for the *entente cordiale*

Historically, the UK and France haven't always seen eye to eye. Things got off to a bad start back in 1066, and with the passage of time, improvements were negligible: Agincourt and Crecy didn't exactly endear us to our trans-Manche cousins, for example. That all changed in the last century when the Brits and the French showed what they could do together in terms of aerospace: is there anyone who could fail to be moved by Concorde? In a similar vein, the French also aided and abetted one British toy manufacturer...

In those far off, pre-plastic days, toys of the kind that you played with (as opposed to those in fancy packaging and with sky-high price tags) were generally made from lead or pewter or some archaic formula invented by the Germans called composition. Strange to relate, though, aluminium was also used – although its exponents were few and you'd have been hard pressed to find any examples on these shores. Quiralu is the name of the company here, a French enterprise which predated the second world war (it was actually established in 1932) and which would diligently offer a huge range of aluminium figurines, vehicles (in 1:43 scale) and accessories in roughly 54mm size, all the way up to its closure three decades later. Other companies also got into the act with aluminium as a medium but none was as prolific as Quiralu. In fact, the company could be rightly compared to Britains in terms of its wide range, quality and inventiveness.

It was just after the second global conflict that one Edgar Kehoe had the idea of setting up a toy business. Unimpressed by the inherent fragility of the (then

popular) lead figurines, he became interested in the French answer – and this led to a meeting with the boss of Quiralu, Hubert de Grange. A deal was struck which would see Kehoe make use of some of the French moulds, although in the fullness of time the British company would produce its own models. Thus Wend-al was born.

The great selling point for these products was their much trumpeted unbreakable nature. You could be forgiven for thinking that aluminium is delicate: pick up one of these figurines and although it is noticeably light, it is very strong indeed. We're back to Concorde here...

Whilst Quiralu made use of brass master models, Wend-al went on to experiment with aluminium figures cast in sand. Under the guidance of Kehoe, the range steadily expanded and typically British additions soon appeared; collectors can find Winston Churchill, Her Majesty on horseback and Guardsmen, to cite just three examples. Whilst the French company was noted for its military foot soldiers (often French), many other types were manufactured. The artillery, when you can find it, is also very well executed. Arguably the most famous Quiralu/Wend-al offering was the Toytown set in which an officer on a rocking horse commands his foot soldiers. It's very much the stuff of children's books but still quite delightful.

However, Wend-al, like Quiralu, couldn't compete with the complexities of plastic yet it wasn't until the early 1980s that the company closed its doors. Today, there are masses of aluminium toys out there, mostly in France; but finding the UK production is a bit harder. They're not terribly expensive but watch out for paint loss with these miniatures – like lead, aluminium wasn't an ideal surface. If you really get the bug, then there are several guides to the range available in France. *Bonne chance!* CG

BELOW Toytown was a subject that came from Quiralu but was adopted also by Wend-al. Occasionally boxed sets appear in the marketplace, which have a charming pictorial backdrop.



BELOW French troops in action. Predictably the domestic army (and colonial forces) was a popular vein for Quiralu although it also made US troops and those of other countries.



RIGHT Cowboys and Indians are an eternal subject and the period was covered by just about every figurine manufacturer. Here the kneeling archer (not the best of fighting positions!) even has a bowstring.



BELOW More from the Wild West. The canoe and paddler are separate castings but the horseman can be found as one piece or with a separate rider. Camp fire (and other pieces) were sometimes part-covered in flock for extra realism.



STAR WARS

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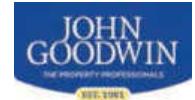
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PRICE GUIDE

C&T Auctioneers sees a selection of fantastic O Gauge steam trains soar into four figures, plus Reeman Dansie sends a wealth of diecast under the hammer.



▲ Carette Gauge III Live Steam 4-4-0 Smith Compound North Eastern Locomotive 1870 and tender, circa 1905, North Eastern and crest to sides, finished in hand painted green lined livery, excellent overall condition. *Sold for £2,200, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Bing for Bassett-Lowke Gauge II Live Steam 4-6-0 Express Locomotive 460 and tender, circa 1927, overall good to excellent condition, boiler professionally repainted, buffer beams and probably hand rails repainted. *Sold for £1,300, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Bing Gauge II Live Steam 4-2-2 GNR Locomotive 7094 and bogie tender, circa 1980, professionally repainted and front bogie wheels loose. *Sold for £1,300, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Bassett-Lowke Live Steam 2.5" Gauge 4-6-2 LNER Pacific Class Flying Scotsman Locomotive 4472 and eight-wheel tender, excellent overall condition, nameplate not original, possible professional repainting to engine. *Sold for £2,200, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Bing for Bassett-Lowke Clockwork Gauge 1 Atlantic Class 4-4-2 GNR Locomotive 1425 and tender, circa 1913, overall excellent condition, repainting to buffer beams. Front coupling detached and not original. *Sold for £1,100, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Bing Gauge I Live Steam 0-4-0 GNR Locomotive 776 and Tender, circa 1905, good overall condition, some paint loss and chips to boiler. *Sold for £650, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Marklin Clockwork Gauge I 4-4-2 L&NWR Precursor Tank Engine 44, circa 1912, overall good to excellent condition, some fine crazing, buffer beams repainted. *Sold for £750, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Marklin Gauge I Clockwork 4-6-0 LNWR Engine No. 66 Experiment Locomotive and tender, circa 1910, fair condition, general paint loss and some flaking, front bogie wheels loose. *Sold for £580, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Bing Gauge I Live Steam 4-4-0 LNER Engine No. 1902 Locomotive and tender, circa 1910, overall good condition, some paint loss to dome and some old retouching to paint. *Sold for £620, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Bing Gauge I Live Steam 4-4-0 Great Western Engine No. 3410 Locomotive and Tender, circa 1910, engine overall fair to good condition, some scorching to boiler, some crazing to paintwork. *Sold for £720, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Bing Gauge I Live Steam 0-4-0 Locomotive and tender, 1920s, fair condition, crazing to paint mainly around cab, old retouching to paint. *Sold for £320, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Bing Gauge I Clockwork 4-4-2 LB&SCR Engine No. 22 Percursor Tank Locomotive, circa 1910, nicely detailed, some staining and scratches to paint. Cab roof replaced. *Sold for £600, C&T Auctioneers, October.*



▲ Dinky Supertoys No. 923 Big Bedford Van 'Heinz 57 Varieties', in blue and white striped box. *Sold for £110, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Supertoys No. 934 Leyland Octopus Wagon, dark blue and light blue, in blue and white striped box. *Sold for £10, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ DINKY TOYS NO. 501 FODEN DIESEL 8 WHEEL WAGON, boxed. *Sold for £170, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Toys No. 911 Guy 4-Ton Lorry, boxed. *Sold for £55, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ DINKY TOYS NO. 512 GUY FLAT TRUCK, boxed. *Sold for £75, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ DINKY TOYS NO. 274 ECURIE BELUX TANKER, boxed. *Sold for £55, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Supertoys No. 943 Leyland Octopus Tanker - Esso, boxed. *Sold for £300, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Toys No. 943 Leyland Octopus Tanker - Esso, boxed. *Sold for £120, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ French Dinky Toys No. 33c Glaziers Van, toy and box in very good condition. *Sold for £65, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Supertoys No. 511 Guy 4 Ton Lorry, boxed. *Sold for £65, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Toys No. 177 Opel Kapitan, boxed. *Sold for £50, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Toys No. 178 Plymouth Plaza, boxed. *Sold for £60, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Toys No. 195 Jaguar 3.4 Saloon, toy and box in very good condition. *Sold for £48, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Toys No. 158 Riley Saloon, toy in good condition but dirty, box good but wrong colour spot. *Sold for £80, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Dinky Toys No. 110 Aston Martin DB3 Sports, toy and box in very good condition. *Sold for £140, Reeman Dansie, October.*

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY**1869**

The world famous Heinz company was founded in 1869.

46

One of Morestone's first ever diecast toys was a Racing Car, released in 1946.

465

On the subject of Heinz there are approximately 465 beans in a tin.

2006

The Foden marque was officially brought to an end in 2006.



♦Dinky Toys No. 252 Refuse Wagon, boxed. *Sold for £130, Reeman Dansie, October.*



♦French Dinky Toys No. 818 Camion Militaire Berliet Tous Terrains, boxed. *Sold for £50, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲Tri-ang Spot-On No. 109/3B ERF 68g Flat Float, with sides, with barrel load, boxed. *Sold for £320, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲Morestone Series No. 4 Express Delivery Wagon, boxed. *Sold for £120, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲Tri-ang Spot-On No. 109/2P ERF 68g Flat Float, without sides, with wooden plank load, boxed. *Sold for £290, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲Morestone Series No. 2 Long Distance Wagon, boxed. *Sold for £100, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲Morestone Series No. 1 Foden Petrol Tanker, boxed. *Sold for £150, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲Morestone Series No. 3 14 Ton Foden Milk Delivery Wagon, boxed. *Sold for £150, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲Corgi Toys No. 208 Jaguar 2.4 Litre Saloon, boxed. *Sold for £44, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲Dinky Toys No. 234 Ferrari Racing Car, model very good, box very good. *Sold for £160, Reeman Dansie, October.*



♦Dinky Toys No. 301 Field Marshall Tractor, toy and box in very good condition. *Sold for £140, Reeman Dansie, October.*



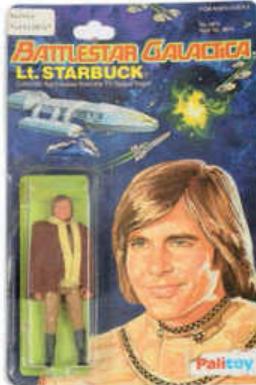
▲Corgi Toys No. 35 Unimog Rear Dumper No. 409, boxed. *Sold for £15, Reeman Dansie, October.*



▲ Lincoln International vintage Batman Escape Gun, 1960s, excellent, within original cellophane bag (slightly holed) and excellent plus backing card. *Sold for £40, Vectis, October.*



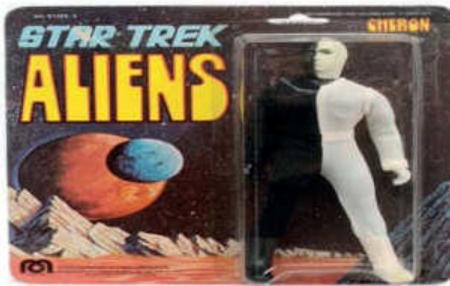
▲ D. Dekker & Co. (UK) Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds Lady Penelope Play Suit, made 1965, excellent plus condition, within good plus illustrated box. *Sold for £300, Vectis, October.*



▲ Palitoy/Mattel Battlestar Galactica Lt. Starbuck 3 3/4'' vintage figure, near mint to mint with opened bubble and fair to good card back. Palitoy label affixed over Mattel logo. *Sold for £30, Vectis, October.*



▲ Mego Flash Gordon Dale Arden 9" action figure, near mint to mint, within fair bubble (split to left stem, and is lifting from base and along right-hand edge of card), upon excellent plus to near mint card back. *Sold for £60, Vectis, October.*



▲ Mego Star Trek Cherlon Aliens 8" figure, 1975, No. 51203/4, mint, within excellent plus to near mint bubble upon excellent to excellent plus card, rare figure. *Sold for £150, Vectis, October.*



▲ Mego Star Trek Aliens The Gorn 8" figure, 1975, #51203/3, figure is mint within good (crushed) bubble upon fair to good card (slight tear to rear and to punch hole), rare figure. *Sold for £70, Vectis, October.*



▲ Bandai Gerry Anderson Terrahawks Action Zeroid, condition is excellent, in fair box. *Sold for £35, Vectis, October.*



▲ Mego Batman Batcycle, condition is excellent, in fair box. *Sold for £70, Vectis, October.*



▲ Denys Fisher Muhammad Ali Boxing figure, condition is believed mint in good plus sealed box. *Sold for £190, Vectis, October.*

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ebuys

From collectables of the future to old favourites, eBay always manages to produce some amazing finds... and even more amazing prices!



▲ **Corgi Major Toys Gift Set No. 1 Carrimore Car Transporter with Four Cars**, in the words of the seller "this item can only be described as fantastic", then again, they would say that, wouldn't they? **Sold for £771.66 (11 bids)**.



▲ **Iri-ang Electric Ford Zephyr**, this 1/20 scale Zephyr measured around nine-inches long. This particular example had been repainted to a "professional standard" and the motor was untested. The seller noted it displays well. **Sold for £746 (18 bids)**.



▲ **Matchbox 1.75s Gift Set 1 Service Station Set**, another fantastic gift set, this time from Matchbox. Made in the 1960s, the seller stated it is a possibly US issue and was ex shop stock. They gave it a rating of 9.5+/10. **Sold for £680.60 (38 bids)**.



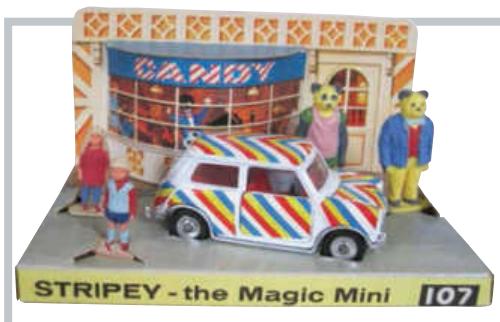
▲ **Dinky Toys No. 200 Kodak Film Van**, made in 1934/35 this is one of the older items sold on eBay this month but it was still very sought after. Condition was, as you might expect, a little play worn but it had no cracks. **Sold for £400 (Buy it Now)**.



▲ **Action Man Explorer Sledge and Dog Team**, the seller had owned this particular set for around 15 years and confirmed it had received no restoration. There was some denting to the box and the outer cellophane was missing. **Sold for £600 (Buy it Now)**.



▲ **Mystery Action Batmobile**, sadly there was no maker listed for this particular tinplate Batmobile... although a Japanese company like AHI is a safe bet. It had a broken (but present) steering wheel, should someone fancy a repair job. **Sold for £600 (one bid)**.



▲ **Dinky Toys No. 107 Stripey - The Magic Mini**, there was something of a run on Stripey models this month, with several appearing on eBay. However, this one made the most and was in "absolutely mint condition". **Sold for £500 (Buy it Now)**.



▲ **Nintendo Game & Watch No. 194 A10 Green House**, these early handheld videogames from Japanese company Nintendo are becoming extremely sought after, with prices steadily increasing over the past few years. **Sold for £400 (15 bids)**.



▲ **Corgi Toys Commer Van Combex Ind. Ltd.**, "a rare find" stated the seller and you can see why. This was one of only 144 models produced for the Birmingham electro-plating company. It was in mint, original condition. **Sold for £549.99 (Buy it Now)**.



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Delights in Dorset

David Boxall visits one of Dorset's most popular toy fairs.

The Wimborne Toy Fair proves to be ever popular, as does the venue - the Queen Elizabeth's School. There is ample parking and an excellent, well used refreshments corner.

As usual, David Rees and Jason Davies had gathered together a keen group of traders, who covered most aspects of collectables and, once again, there were a few new trade tables; mostly collectors who were clearing some of their long held treasures. The show opened at 10.15am and the queue was ready and willing, while the usual crew was in place to welcome the visitors into this very modern venue.

Just inside the main entrance to the show, I met Ed Harris, who had booked a table in order to reduce his superb collection of tinplate and diecast toys. He had a number of very rare items to sell - mainly tinplate. The Mettoy Fire Station was particularly spectacular, especially if you haven't seen one before. The front door was open, to reveal two fire engines inside - priced at £250. Another exciting model on view was the Chad Valley Van, also in tinplate. On the side of the van it has 'By Appointment - Toy Makers to HM the Queen', and beneath it had 'The Chad Valley Co. Ltd, Harborne, England'. The whole of the roof and the top surround of the van were covered in games. It was a very colourful and interesting item, which was priced at £375.

On the opposite side of the

entrance hall, Mike Cooke also had lots of tinplate models, mostly in mint condition. There was a wide selection of quality items available. One of the most tempting was probably the boxed Mercedes Benz by Marklin. It was a slightly larger scale to the toys that I am usually drawn towards but it was very mint, with a price of £185. I also noted a red Triang Minic Bus in a box for £70, and a red Pocketoy Removal Van in excellent condition. Also hard to resist was the fabulous tinplate VW Beetle.

John Worley always manages to find mint models in crisp boxes for the toy fairs. He had made the journey from the Isle of Wight to be at the show and had a large number of boxed Corgi and Dinky toys, including a tray of Corgi Toys in window boxes where I noticed the Rover 2000 TC with 'Golden Jacks', model No. 275. This was the rare white version, with a deep red interior and amber roof panel. This particular model in the series of 'Take-off wheels' has a spare wheel and tyre in a case on the boot. The car was priced at £175. Also in the same tray, I spotted the Ford Mustang, model No. 391. This was the James Bond Mustang from the film Diamonds Are Forever, released in 1972 and carried a price ticket of £250. Finally, I thought I better mention one of my favourite models, the Hillman Hunter with kangaroo. This car came 'with 18 authentic transfers to apply' and was released as

model No. 302 in 1969. It was priced at £165.

Next up was Malcolm Ambrose, who is a keen collector of commercial vehicles, and had an interesting selection as usual. Parked alongside the larger lorries he always has a variety of cars and some farming vehicles. He showed me the export version of Dinky Toys No. 300 Massey Ferguson Tractor, with yellow plastic front hubs, which was reasonably priced at £50. I also noticed the Dinky Toys Ford Consul Corsair, model No 130. This car is very hard to find now, especially in this condition.

In the same hall, another table of quality models had been set out by Peter Denton. Peter is a keen collector, who is constantly upgrading his collection and clears out those models that he replaces. He had put together a very colourful display of toys from the 1950s and 1960s, with the odd 1970s interloper included. There was a large section of the table devoted to Corgi, and I noticed the Military Land Rover, in excellent condition, nestled amongst the crowd. Further along the table, I was particularly drawn to some of the Dinky Toys, including the Leyland Comet Cement Wagon. This model was released in 1954, as model No. 933, and looked splendid in its box, and was priced at £95. I also liked the Guy with Type 1 Cab, in blue with a red flatbed. This model was released as No. 512, and this particular one, which

was boxed, carried a price tag of £70.

Tim Baker always has a table or two at this show and this event was no different. He had a large display of models for sale. Many of the vehicles are promotional models, which carry logos, while others can be used straight from the box with the smaller scale railway systems.

Meanwhile Mike Thorne had a good selection of older Dinky Toys to choose from. I really liked the Shell-BP Austin A40 Van, released as model No. 470, which was in sparkling condition for £39. Also on the same stall, the Telephones Service Van, released as model No. 261 in 1955, was in excellent condition. This Morris 'Z' Van, in olive and black carries a tinplate ladder on the roof. A very attractive model that was priced at £26.

Finally Terry Jenkins had yet another fabulous display, of very old and well preserved games and books, and a second table of trains from the 1950s and 1960s. This seems to be a regular theme for Terry at the Wimborne show. The games ranged in price from £25 to £45.

Before leaving the show, I went to find David and Jason in order to congratulate them on the particularly high quality of the trade tables and items for sale. Jason explained that it is one of the aspects of the show that they have worked hard to establish. As usual they were pleased with the turnout and thanked everyone for their support. ■



NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY

Malcolm Ambrose had the export version of Dinky Toys No. 300, with yellow plastic front hubs, priced at £50.



TOP LEFT Mettoy Fire Station and two Land Speed Record Cars.

LEFT Peter Denton had devoted a large section of his table to Corgi Toys.



BELLOW LEFT John Worley had the Rover 2000 TC with 'Golden Jacks', model No. 275, priced at £175.

RIGHT Mike Thorne had the Shell-BP Austin A40 Van, priced at £39.

BELLOW RIGHT The Chad Valley Tinplate Van – 'By Appointment'.



BOTTOM RIGHT Terry Jenkins had yet another fabulous display of games, books, and trains.

FAR RIGHT The Mercedes Benz by Marklin was priced at £185.



Tied up in Notts

Rob Burman reports from Malcolm Townsend's latest fair at the Blue Coat Academy, Nottingham.

Nottingham has something of a reputation when it comes to toy fairs. A couple of decades ago one of the country's best events was held in the grounds of the university, while even further in the past one of the UK's first swapmeets was held upstairs in the Woodlark pub on the outskirts of Nottingham. Nowadays though, the task has fallen to Malcolm Townsend and his enjoyable fair at the Blue Coat Academy, just off Nottingham's ring road.

For his latest show, Malcolm was unfortunately missing some key traders but still put together a solid offering featuring around 70 tables. "A few of my regulars couldn't make it today because of other events," explained Malcolm while manning the tea stand in a very fetching apron. "I always try and avoid other fairs but it's almost impossible."

Malcolm then grabbed a folder full of information about his fairs, along with a calendar showing potential dates for other shows organised by different people. Trying to make sense of the coloured notes, scribbles and dates was no easy task but for Malcolm it must be an indispensable guide. "The other fairs are the easy bit... it's the dates from my wife that are difficult," he laughed.

So onto the fair itself now and there was a busy hall bustling with punters. On offer was a nice selection of toys, with plenty of model



ABOVE There was a bustling atmosphere in the hall, despite the fact that a few traders were unable to attend. Malcolm is busy out of shot making the refreshments.



ABOVE It's not often that a potential factory fault can become a positive but that's exactly what happened with this piece.

railway options, some diecast and a wide selection of books covering varied topics. The first piece to grab our attention was a Corgi Toys No. 1121 Chipperfield Circus Crane Truck in its original box and priced at £95. Just next to it, and also in its original box, was a Corgi Toys No. 1127

Bedford Simon Snorkel Fire Engine pegged at £33.

Talking of diecast, there aren't many professions in which a seller would actually highlight a mistake, instead hoping to pass it off as perfect. However, local trader Malcolm was clearly quite pleased with his Dinky Toys



ABOVE LEGO is popular but this was a tad pricey.

No. 155 Ford Anglia, which had been painted incorrectly at the factory and didn't have a silver grille. £65 was the asking price for this curio.

Malcolm also reported that sales of top end items, like a few Dinky trucks on his stand for around £150, seemed to be doing well recently... at least

for him. "It's interesting at the moment because we're finding that the expensive stuff is actually selling well and it's the lower price pieces that aren't faring too good," he told us. "I guess it just shows that those who have got the spare cash are happy to spend it on quality toys. Quality sells!"

Something that certainly stood out among all the diecast and model railways was a trader selling a selection of LEGO sets, including No. 7153 Star Wars Jango Fett's Slave 1, as seen in Episode II: Attack of the Clones. Complete in its box, the seller was asking £125 for it... which is perhaps a tad pricey, considering they tend to sell on eBay for under the £100 mark. A more reasonable offer was a LEGO Creator No. 6754 house, which had a table price of £50.

Finally, if you're a model railway buff, then you're probably used to all the fancy gizmos and gadgets that can add sound effects to your layouts. But what did people do in the past to add realism to their tracks? Well, how about a vinyl record featuring sounds recorded from a real-life railway? That's exactly what Argo Transacord with its vinyl of South Eastern steam engines travelling in a range of locations, including Margate, Hastings and Folkestone Harbour. Made in 1962, you could stick this on in the background and be transported back to a simpler time. The price was pretty simple too - coming in at £7.50. ■

FAIRS

21 NOVEMBER 15

- **Exeter**, Ray Heard, 01823 480097
- **Hereford**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Shildon**, Pennine Models, 07966 333605
- **Henfield**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Wrexham**, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362

22 NOVEMBER 15

- **Aylesbury**, Brian Chamberlain, 07864 640320
- **Devizes**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322
- **Herne Bay**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Llanelli/Swansea**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Malvern**, Wheelbase Fairs Ltd, 01246 767876 or 07751 613640
- **Sheffield**, TTC Toy Fairs, 07846 772568
- **Shildon**, Pennine Models, 07966 333605
- **Wirral**, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362

24 NOVEMBER 15

- **Garstang**, Janet Pearson, 01282 439009

25 NOVEMBER 15

- **Hoddesdon**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

27 NOVEMBER 15

- **Alfreton**, Malcolm Townsend 07951 072790

28 NOVEMBER 15

- **Ashton**, TTC Toy Fairs, 07846 772568
- **Colchester**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Stoke-on-Trent**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773

29 NOVEMBER 15

- **Barry**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Dublin**, Brian Collins, 0879 827 712
- **Dudley**, Rewind Collectables, 07969 050421
- **Fontwell - CANCELLED**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Mansfield**, Wheelbase Fairs Ltd, 01246 767876 or 07751 613640
- **Midhurst**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Warrington**, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362

- **Wimborne**, David Rees, 01202 590158 or 01202 600121

1 DECEMBER 15

- **Rugby (Evening)**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688

2 DECEMBER 15

- **Petersfield**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322
- **South Croydon**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

5 DECEMBER 15

- **Gateshead**, Jim Corr, 07504 035955
- **Hook**, Steven Clements Fairs Ltd, 01380 725322
- **London**, Guideline Publications, 01908 274433
- **Maidstone**, Maidstone Vintage Toyfair, 01622 298159
- **Nottingham**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790
- **Oxford**, Richard Atkins, 01869 347489

6 DECEMBER 15

- **Biggleswade**, Peter Levinson, 0208 205 1518
- **Chelmsford**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Eastbourne**, Eastbourne Historic Vehicle Club, 01323 507135
- **Falkirk**, McLaren Models, 01324 624102
- **Holme Chapel**, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362
- **Kempton Park Racecourse**, RM Toys, 023 9238 1529
- **London**, Guideline Publications, 01908 274433
- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard 01823 480097
- **York**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383

8 DECEMBER 15

- **Heywood**, Wheelbase Fairs Ltd, 01246 767876 or 07751 613640

9 DECEMBER 15

- **Burton-upon-Trent**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790

12 DECEMBER 15

- **Brentwood**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383
- **Chester**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773
- **Nantwich**, TTC Toy Fairs, 07846 772568

13 DECEMBER 15

- **Ashington**, Simon Phillips, 07727 023893
- **Leeds (Pudsey)**, Steel Promotions, 0161 283 1255
- **Lincolnshire**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383
- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Stafford Showground**, Barry

- **Potter Fairs**, 01604 846688

15 DECEMBER 15

- **Elsecar**, Wheelbase Fairs Ltd, 01246 767876 or 07751 613640

17 DECEMBER 15

- **Theydon Bois**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

19 DECEMBER 15

- **Hawkinge**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012

20 DECEMBER 15

- **Bridgwater**, Ray Heard, 01823 480097
- **Cirencester**, Ronnie Davies, 07708 385061
- **Huntingdon**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383
- **Orpington**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012

27 DECEMBER 15

- **Birmingham (NEC)**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Llandudno**, Len & Sandra Ricketts, 01492 545053
- **Norwich**, J & D Toyfairs, 07881 555283 or 01953 861348
- **Worthing**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012

28 DECEMBER 15

- **Carmarthen**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Haydock Park Racecourse**, Barry Stockton, 0151 334 3362
- **Spalding**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383
- **Thornbury**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857

29 DECEMBER 15

- **Bolton**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Rayleigh**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012

30 DECEMBER 15

- **Chessington - CANCELLED**, SRP Toyfairs, 07739 998012
- **Doncaster Racecourse**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688

1 JANUARY 16

- **East Midlands**, J&J Fairs Ltd, 01522 880383

AUCTIONS

20 NOVEMBER 15

- **Bury St Edmunds**, Lacy Scott & Knight, 01284 748600

21 NOVEMBER 15

- **Newark**, Northgate Auction Rooms, 01636 605905

24 NOVEMBER 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis Auctions, 01642 750616

25 NOVEMBER 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis Auctions, 01642 750616
- **Beeston**, Townsend Auction Galleries Ltd, 01328 598080
- **Royal Tunbridge Wells**, C&T Auctioneers & Valuers, 01233 510050

27 NOVEMBER 15

- **Chippenham**, Wessex Auction Rooms, 01249 720888

28 NOVEMBER 15

- **Rugby**, Vectis Auctions, 01642 750616
- **Wareham**, Cotttees, 01929 552826

4 DECEMBER 15

- **Taunton**, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 01823 332525

7 DECEMBER 15

- **On-line auction**, www.antiquetoys.com.au, Trains, Planes & Automobiles, +61 (0) 2 4787 7974

8 DECEMBER 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis Auctions, 01642 750616

9 DECEMBER 15

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595
- **Thornaby**, Vectis Auctions, 01642 750616

10 DECEMBER 15

- **Holbeach**, IGP Limited, 01406 424681
- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595

11 DECEMBER 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis Auctions, 01642 750616

15 DECEMBER 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis Auctions, 01642 750616

16 DECEMBER 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis Auctions, 01642 750616

27 DECEMBER 15

- **Thornaby**, Vectis Auctions, 01642 750616
- **The National Railway Museum**, Shildon, Pennine Models, 07966 333605

LONDON

Toy soldier collectors really cannot afford to miss The Toy Soldier Show on 5th December, as it's the stand out date in the toy figure calendar. There are more than 70 confirmed traders for this year's show.

- **Venue:** The Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, N1 0QH
- **Time:** 10.30am to 4pm
- **Entry price:** £6 on the door, pre-paid tickets £5

BIRMINGHAM

Once you've got all your Christmas dosh, then why not take a trip along to Barry Potter's huge Birmingham event, which will surely give you plenty of options of how to spend your money.

- **Venue:** NEC Birmingham, Hall 18, B40 1NT
- **Time:** 10.30am to 3pm
- **Entry price:** Adults £6.50, senior citizens £6, children £2. Parking is free.

SPECIAL AUCTION SERVICES

Well, this is the big one for the toy train collecting fraternity. Special Auction Services' hugely popular Trains Galore sale returns on 9th and 10th December and, if the previous years are anything to go by, this will be an absolutely stellar auction packed with quality products.

ASHINGTON

TOY & TRAIN COLLECTORS FAIR

Ashington Community Centre, Foster Lane, Ashington (Just off the A24) West Sussex, RH20 3PG

Sunday 13th December

10am-2pm

For further information contact Simon on 07727 023893
For a wide range of collectables please visit www.modelcarmart.co.uk

Toy Train and Collectors Fair

Sunday 20th December

Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester GL7 1JT
From 10am. Early bird from 7am

The last chance to trade or buy before Christmas!

Booking ring 07708 385061 or 07900 266427

TOY & TRAIN FAIR

BIGGLESWADE

Sunday 6th December

Weatherley Centre,
Eagle Farm Road SG18 8JH
(Corner of Jack Bygraves Motors)
2 miles Homebase Roundabout
A1 (A6001)

10.30am - 3.00pm

For more details please call Peter or Diane
020 8205 1518

EASTBOURNE HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB

Toy & Transport Collectors Fair
POLEGATE COMMUNITY CENTRE,
POLEGATE, EASTBOURNE

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2015
Selling & swapping collectors models, cards,
books, Vintage motoring items etc.
Admission: Adult £1 - Children Free OPEN 10am-3pm
www.ehvc.co.uk

WIMBORNE
Model Toys & Trains Collectors Fair
Queen Elizabeth's School, Blandford Road (B3082),
Wimborne Minster, Dorset, BH21 4DT

Sunday 29th November 2015
10.15am - 3.00pm
Large FREE Car Park and refreshments
Enquiries to Dave or Jason on (01202) 590158 or 600121

HODDESDON
Wednesday 25th Nov 7pm - 9pm
Shredes School, Cock Lane,
Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 8JY
Admission: £1

SOUTH CROYDON
Wednesday 2nd Dec 6.30pm - 8.30pm
St John's Community Hall, Upper Selsdon Road,
Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8DD
Admission: £1

THEYDON BOIS
Thursday 17th December 7pm - 9pm
Theydon Bois Village Hall, Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois, Nr Epping, Essex CM16 7ER
Admission: £1

For more details please call:
07866 641215

CHRIS DYER FAIRS

TOY & TRAIN FAIRS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HEREFORD 80 TABLES
Saturday 21st November
10.30am-3pm
Hereford Leisure Centre
Holme Road, HR4 9UD
(Admission £1.95/Child or OAP £1.50)

BARRY 85 TABLES
Sunday 29th November
10.30am-3pm
Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street,
Barry, Nr Cardiff CF63 4RU
(Admission £1.95/Child or OAP £1.50)

LLANELLI 45 TABLES
Sunday 22nd November
10.30am-3pm
Llangennech Community Centre, off Hendre
Road, Llangennech, Nr Llanelli SA14 8TH
(Admission £1.95/Child or OAP £1.50)

CARMARTHEN 80 TABLES
Bank Hol Monday 28th December
10.30am-3pm
Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Llansteffan
Road, Johnstown, SA31 3NQ
(Admission £1.95/Child or OAP £1.50)

Tel: 01643 702757 / 07966 694579 www.chrisdyerfairs.com

THE WORLD FAMOUS LEEDS (PUDSEY) TOY/TRAIN FAIR
PUDSEY CIVIC HALL
Dawson's Corner, Stanningley Road, LS28 5TA

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER
10.00am until 3.00pm
Buying and Selling Model Railways, Dinky,
Matchbox, Lledo, Trains, Tin Plate and Much More!
FLAT UNLOADING-CAFE-LICENSED BAR-SIGNPOSTED
Future dates: TBC

DETAILS AND BOOKINGS STEEL PROMOTIONS TEL: 0161 283 1255 OR 0161 766 2012 **DETAILS AND BOOKINGS**

YORK RACECOURSE SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER
The Knavesmire Stand, York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX
10am - 2.30pm » 100 tables » 6ft table £28 » Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER
International Hall, Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN
10am - 2.30pm » 200 tables » 6ft table £30 » Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER
The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA
10am - 2.30pm » 200 tables » 6ft table £29 » Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

HUNTINGDON SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER
Int. Indoor Arena, Kings Bush Centre, Wood Green Animal Shelters, London Rd, Godmanchester PE29 2NH. 10am - 2.30pm » 230 tables » 6ft table £29 » Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

SPALDING BANK HOL MONDAY 28TH DECEMBER
Springfields Exhibition Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET
10am - 2.30pm » 150 tables » 6ft table £28 » Ad £2.50, Sen £2, 1st Ch £1.50

EAST MIDLANDS - NEW YEARS DAY
FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2016
Newark & Notts Showground, Winthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY
10am - 3pm » 300 tables » 6ft table £35 » Ad £3.50, Sen £3, 1st Ch £2.50

For bookings and further information
please telephone Lorraine on
01522 880383
New email: jandjfairs@virginmedia.com

DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL EAST MIDLANDS TOY & TRAIN COLLECTORS FAIR
to be held at THE GEORGE STEPHENSON EXHIBITION HALL,
NEWARK & NOTTS SHOWGROUND, WINTHORPE, NEWARK,
NOTTS NG24 2NY (on the junction of A1/A46 towards Lincoln)

NEW YEARS DAY
FRIDAY 1st JANUARY 2016
ONLY ONCE A YEAR - MISS IT AND MISS OUT!

"Always an exciting date on the toy collecting calendar, this very large fair always boasts an excellent selection of old and new toys, trains, models and much, much more. Held in the The George Stephenson Hall which is well lit and spacious with masses of free parking."

HOW TO FIND THE VENUE

10am - 3pm
ADMISSION:
Adults £3.50,
Seniors £3.00,
First Child £2.50
STALLHOLDERS:
Enter from 6.30am. Tables prices at £35 per 6ft

300 TABLES Bookings now being taken!

For more information about this fair, please contact
Lorraine on 01522 880383 or jandjfairs@virginmedia.com

MANSFIELD

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 10AM-2PM

The John Fretwell Sporting Complex, Sookholme Road, Sookholme, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG19 8LL
Located just off the A60 on the B6407. Adults £2, Seniors £1.50, Children £1.20.

Table rent £25 per 6ft • Early Entry from 8am £5
Great fairs to visit with a friendly atmosphere. Refreshments available.
• Tel: Brian 01246 767876 or 07751 613640 • wheelbasefairs@virginmedia.com

TOY & TRAIN FAIR GATESHEAD INT. STADIUM

Neilson Road, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE10 0EF (Just off Felling-by-pass, A184)

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 2015 10.00am-3.00pm



- Admission: Adults £3.00, Concessions £2.00

- Buy, sell and swap trains, diecast cars, buses and trucks, soldiers and more!

- Free parking, working exhibitions and cafe facilities

Interested in selling your collection or want a table to sell your stock?

Contact Jim on 07504 035955 or email: jim_corr73@hotmail.co.uk



Hornby Series

DINKY TOYS

OXFORD, SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2015

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1AB. M40 Junction 9
+ A Vintage Hornby 'O' Gauge Train Layout. *New times for 2015 10.30am-3pm*

DETAILS: RICHARD ATKINS TEL: 01869 347489

East Anglia's Premier Toy Fairs

NORWICH Sunday 27th December

Lancaster Suite, Holiday Inn, Norwich Airport, NR6 6JA
10.30am - 2.30pm. Tables £25 Public admission: £2.50, Children: Free

For more details please contact J&D TOY & TRAIN FAIRS
John Parsonage 07881 555283 or Dennis Payne 01953 861348

TOY, TRAIN & MODEL COLLECTORS FAIRS

STOKE-ON-TRENT

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Fenton Community Centre, Manor Street, Fenton Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2PT
10.30am - 2pm • Free parking • Admission £1.00



CHESTER *NEW VENUE*

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER

Chester County Sports Club, Plas Newton Lane, Upton,
Chester CH1 1PR (off A41) 10.30am - 2.30pm
• Admission £2.00 • Early entry 8.30am £5.00

For further details please call Tony Oakes on 01270 652773 or 07825 631323

MAIDSTONE VINTAGE TOY FAIR
Maidstone • TO THE BEST VINTAGE TOY SHOW IN KENT

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2015
Lockmeadow Market Hall & Leisure Complex, Barker Road, Hart Street Entrance, Maidstone
9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Admission £2.00

5 MINS WALK FROM TOWN CENTRE.
MAIDSTONE WEST & EAST RAILWAY STATIONS. PARK AND RIDE SERVICE STOPS
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-TOYS, TRAINS, DOLLS,
TEDDY BEARS, MODELS
& MORE. FURTHER INFORMATION

TEL: (01622) 298159
(01732) 840787



RAY HEARD TRAIN & TOY FAIRS

EXETER SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

Matford Centre, Matford Park Road, Exeter, EX2 8FD

- Admission £2 • Times: 10am to 3.30pm
- Free car parking • Refreshments available
- 200+ tables • 75+ traders

NEWTON ABBOT SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

Newton Abbot Racecourse, Devon, TQ12 3AF
(follow the brown racecourse direction signs)

- Admission: £2 • Times: 10am to 3.30pm
- Free car parking • Refreshments available
- 160 tables • 60+ traders

BRIDGWATER SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Junction 24, The Venue, Marketway,
North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6DF

- Admission £2 • Times 10am to 3.30pm
- Free car parking • Refreshments available
- 200+ tables • 75+ traders

For more information please contact Ray Heard on 01823 480097

SRP TOYFAIRS

PRESENTS A NEW EVENT...



MIDHURST, W SUSSEX

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER

THE GRANGE LEISURE CENTRE, BEPTON ROAD, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX 10am - 2pm.

- 500 free parking spaces
- Hot & cold refreshments available
- Train layouts
- 6ft tables £25
- Adults £2, children FREE



Future 2016 dates: 24th January, 17th April
11th September and 27th November

srptoys1@hotmail.co.uk www.srptoystoys1.co.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: PAULA AND GERRY ON 07739 998012

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London's No 1 Sunday Toy Collectors Fair

KEMPTON PARK TOY FAIR

At: Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East
Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex TW16 5AQ. M3 Jct 1 onto A308

ON

SUNDAY 6th December 2015 10.30am - 3.00pm

Adults - £4.00 OAPs - £3.50 Children - £1.00

Early Entry Buyers - £10.00 (8.30am onwards)

Approx 200 tables of toy and model dealers, buying, selling and part exchanging a wide variety of collectables including Model Railways, Models Cars and Buses, Scalextric, Dolls and Teddy Bears, White Metal, Aircraft, Display Cabinets, Memorabilia and much much more

For information and booking details please contact
Russell Martin on 023 9238 1529 or 07957 823507

Future date: 31st Jan, 13th March, 15th May, 2nd Oct, 4th Dec

SUNDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 2015 WIRRAL

HULME HALL, PORT SUNLIGHT,

Wirral CH62 5DH - 10.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.

UP TO 65 STANDS - Admission: Adults £1.50 Children 50p

* * * NEW EVENT * * *

SUNDAY, 29th NOVEMBER, 2015 WARRINGTON

WARRINGTON COLLEGIATE,

Winwick Road, Warrington WA2 8QA (on the A49 - M62 Junc. 9)
10.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.

UP TO 80 STANDS - Admission: Adults £2.00 Children 50p

SUNDAY, 6th DECEMBER, 2015 HOLMES CHAPEL

HOLMES CHAPEL LEISURE CENTRE,

Selkirk Drive (1 mile M6 Junc 18) CW4 7DZ

10.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.

UP TO 80 STANDS - Admission: Adults £2.00 Children 50p

MONDAY, 28th DECEMBER, 2015 HAYDOCK PARK

THE EXHIBITION CENTRE,

Haydock Park Racecourse (1 mile M6 Junc 23) WA12 0HQ
10.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.

UP TO 80 STANDS - Admission: Adults £2.00 Children 50p

**ENQUIRIES BARRY STOCKTON
0151-334 3362
www.barrystocktonfairs.co.uk**

TWO SHOWS

SAME WEEKEND, SAME VENUE, TWO DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES

SATURDAY 5TH DEC 2015

THE LONG ESTABLISHED

THE TOY SOLDIER SHOW LONDON

THE ISLINGTON BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE
52 UPPER STREET, LONDON N1 0QH

Europe's **BIGGEST** Toy Soldier Show with products to meet

your every needs.

A must for all traders, collectors and figure painters.

THE NEXT
SHOW DATES

Saturday 2nd May 2016

Saturday 4th June 2016

EARLY BIRD

Entry 9.00am - 10.30am £10.00

General Admission
10.30am - 4.00pm £6.00

£5.00* for all pre paid tickets

Children under 14 - FREE

SUNDAY 6TH DEC 2015

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ENTRANCE IS UNDER 16'S OPEN 11AM - 4PM

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LONDON PLASTIC MODELLING SHOW

THE ISLINGTON BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE

52 UPPER STREET, LONDON N1 0QH

THE NEXT
SHOW DATES

Sunday

4th December 2016

GENERAL
ADMISSION

Entry 11.00am - 4.00pm £6.00

Children under 14 - FREE

BOOKING, ENQUIRIES & INFORMATION

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BULLDOG FAIRS

Shepton Mallet Toy Collectors Fair

Sunday 13th December 10.30-2.30pm

Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN

Admission: £3.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £10.00 each

Up to 300 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult

Free parking for 1000's of cars. Restaurant now open.

NEXT DATE: Sunday 31st January 2016



Thornbury Toy & Train Fair

Monday 28th December 10.30-2.30pm

Thornbury Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill, Thornbury, BS35 3JB

Admission: £2.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £5.00 each

Up to 100 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult

Free parking for 1000's of cars. Restaurant now open.



Bristol Toy & Train Fair

Sunday 7th February 2016 10.30-2.30pm

Abbeywood Community School, New Road, Stoke Gifford,

BRISTOL. BS34 8SF

Admission: £2.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £5.00 each

Up to 80 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult

Free parking & Light refreshments



Exeter Toy & Train Fair

Sunday 21st February 2016 10.30-2.30pm

Westpoint Arena, Clyst St Mary, EXETER. EX5 1DJ

Admission: £3.50. Early Bird from 08.30 £10.00 each

Up to 300 Stalls. Children under 16 free with paying adult

Free parking for 1000's of cars. Restaurant now open.



Bulldog Fairs 01373 452857 or 07917 125641

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Obsolute Oz

Our monthly gaze into the weird but wonderful world of collector/dealer **Obsolete Oz**. Buying and selling since the 1970s, Oz has developed a great knack for unearthing some amazing finds from flea markets, antique fairs, car boot sales, rubbish skips and even the local tip.

Hi folks, anyone out there remember Torchy the Battery Boy? I was only a kid when he first appeared on our crackly black and white television set way back in 1960. The series was based on stories written by Roberta Leigh and the TV show was directed by, none other than, the legendary Gerry Anderson. Me and my sister loved Torchy, his headlamp powered by the battery inside his body. As I recall his master was a bloke called Mr Bumbledrop who owned a white poodle called Pom Pom... great days. What stirred all this Torch

days... I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the £3.50 price sticker on the back. What a bargain! Just like the Torchy badge I'd never seen one of these tins before. It looks to date from the 1920s and is in fair condition for its age. No doubt the tin collectors will be begging me to sell this but I'm so tempted to keep it... looks like no bills will be paid this month!

Another fantastic find at Peterborough was a Chad Valley tinplate racing car that I snapped up for what I thought was a reasonable £30. I know it should have a box and in mint condition with a box would be worth around £180 but I simply couldn't

kid, which is why I'm now surrounded by junk on a daily basis! I have pinned up their photo in my junk strewn office as a lasting reminder of those wonderfully hilarious escapades down Oil Drum Lane, Shepherd's Bush. Incidentally the theme tune from the show was called 'Old Ned' and written by Ron Grainer.

The Malvern Fleamarket was as busy as ever with a classic car show also being held on the showground. My best buy there was a classic Dinky in the shape of a post war 29b Streamline Bus in fantastic condition bought for a bargain £22. Pre-war versions of this toy had a

sitting at the controls of Supercar with that futuristic looking illuminated screen console. It certainly made my dad's Ford Prefect look a bit dated.

Talking of super cars I sold a Reliant Owners Club enamel lapel badge for a tenner the other day to a guy who owns a genuine three-wheeled Raleigh open top car. It was as a result of the Raleigh Cycle Co ending its production of three wheeler cars that former manager T. L. Williams bought Raleigh's car making equipment and set up the Reliant Car Co in Tamworth.

A Bayko building set instruction manual in great condition sold for a fiver, while a Victory jigsaw puzzle showing a Short Mayo composite flying boat owned by Imperial Airways made £20. This amazing plane was built in 1937 by Short Brothers of Kent and made its first transatlantic flight in July 1938. Its life was short, however, and it was superseded by the Short 'Flying Boat' in 1939.

Finally on the selling front a nice set of Golliwog playing cards made by Thos De La Rue and Co of London found a buyer willing to my £18 asking price. These were wonderfully well printed cards dating from Edwardian times and were in good condition and probably worth more than my asking price.

Well that's about all for another month and indeed another year folks. Can you believe that we'll soon be in 2016? Brave the cold dark mornings if you possibly can and, as always, be lucky! CG

Steptoe and Son had a great influence on me as a kid, which is why I'm now surrounded by junk on a daily basis!

nostalgia was a small badge made of felt and plastic that I spotted at a collectors fair with several other old badges. The dealer wanted 15 quid for it, which seemed a bit steep for a small, somewhat tatty, badge but I had to buy it because I'd never seen another one in all my years of collecting. It will probably remain in my own collection for a bit sitting alongside a few other scarce TV-related badges.

Another super little find came along at the huge Peterborough Antique Fair where I dropped on a very rare Fry's cocoa sample tin. It was just like the good old

turn it down for 30 quid. A bloke from Mansfield told me recently that most of the tinplate toys and tins made by Chad Valley were subcontracted to the Metal Box Co. in Mansfield, so I suspect this car may well be one of those Mansfield made toys.

One of my best recent finds came from a film and TV memorabilia fair and only cost the princely sum of £4. I simply couldn't resist an original press photograph of two of my all-time heroes Steptoe and Son (alias Harry H Corbett and Wilfred Bramble). I loved the TV series and I reckon they had a great influence on me as a

cut out rear window and a roof flash and are scarce, but these post war versions were only made for two years between 1948 and 1950 so are worth buying if in good condition and this one was excellent.

On the selling front a nice TV Annual showing a great illustration of a scene from Supercar soon found a buyer willing to pay a tenner for it. Like Torch, Supercar was an early Gerry Anderson production with two series screened by ATV in the early 1960s. Two Supercar models were used to film the shows, a small and large version. I can still see Mike Mercury

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY

ABOVE What a bargain. This rare Fry's cocoa sample tin was bought from an antique fair for the amazing price of £3.50.



ABOVE Once owned by a guy with a classic car, this old Reliant Owners Club badge is quite a scarce item and well worth Oz's asking price of £10.



Dating from the 1940s this Chad Valley tinplate clockwork racing car might not be mint but it's worth every penny of the £30 Oz paid for it.



ABOVE This very rare Torchy the Battery Boy badge seemed pricey at £15 but Oz had to bag it for his own collection.



ABOVE This Dinky Toys Streamlined Bus was made between 1948 and 1950 and is in remarkable condition for its age. Oz bagged it for a bargain £22.

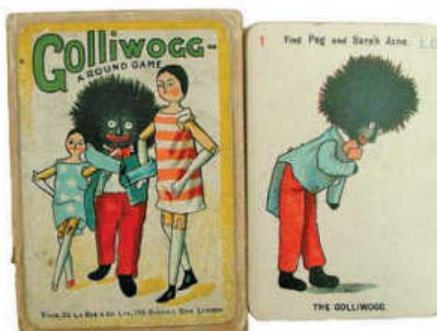


This scarce late 1930s Victory jigsaw puzzle is fully complete and sold to an aviation enthusiast for a reasonable £20.

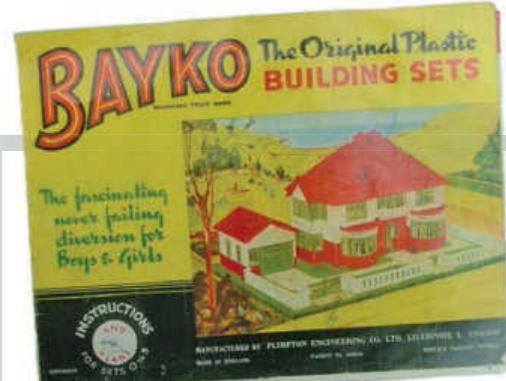
BELOW Oz couldn't resist this original press photograph of his boyhood heroes Steptoe and Son for a mere £4.



This TV annual featuring the adventures of Mike Mercury in Supercar was soon snapped up by a collector for a tenner.



LEFT
These superb playing cards were made in London by Thos De La Rue and Co and the quality of the printing is outstanding.



Bayko is still in great demand and this old instruction manual soon found a buyer willing to pay a fiver for it.

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

TOP TIPS

JIGSAWS = BUYER BEWARE!

I have a policy these days of not buying jigsaw puzzles unless they are fully complete and made up so I can see with my own eyes that they are complete. I've bought so many over the years that have had pieces missing. When selling its essential that buyers can see the complete thing. I put them on card and wrap them in cling film... simple.

CLASSIFIEDS

RETAILERS

DEVON

EXETER ANTIQUE CENTRE on the Quay. Don't miss the first (or any!) instalment of an excellent lifetime's private collection of Dinky Toys (English & French), Corgi Toys, Spot-On Toys, Matchbox, Hot Wheels, Britains and Continental diecast toys, etc now being sold from Cabinet 7 at the Antique Centre on the Quay, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4AP. The collection includes rare and unusual items for sale. There is an eclectic mix of collectables at the centre and it is well worth a visit at any time. Open 7 days a week from 10am to 5pm. A cafe is situated within the centre. Tel: Brian 01803 865581. www.exeterquay antiques.co.uk

KINGSBRIDGE ANTIQUES & CRAFT CENTRE - Holiday in South Devon this year? Then why not visit Kingsbridge Antiques & Craft Centre on the corner of Church Street & Ebrington Street TQ7 1DE, just 5 minutes walk from the Quay Car Park and the Bus Station. An ever changing stock of Antiques & Collectables including Toys & Models, Books & Militaria. Open Monday to Saturday. Tel: 01548 856002 Website: www.kingsbridgeantiques.co.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE TOYMART

Buying and selling obsolete Corgi, Dinky, Railways, toys and Tinplate etc. • Tewkesbury Antiques Centre, Tewkesbury, GL20 5AE Open 7 days. • Stuff Collectors Centre, Lansdowne Chambers, 18 Newerne Street, Lydney, GL15 5RF. Open 7 days. Telephone: 07973 768452. Email: toymart@fsmail.net

KENT

COSMIC CART WHEELS Buying and selling. Collectable toys old and new (Dinky, Corgi, Britains, Hornby, Star Wars, Transformers, Doctor Who, Marvel, etc). Retro computer games (Nintendo, Sega, Playstation, etc). Other memorabilia (football shirts, comics, Mario, Sonic, transport related, TV & Film related, board games etc). Play nostalgia from generation to generation. Browsers welcome. Cosmic Cart Wheels, 103 Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2QR (4 minutes walk Victoria Centre) Tel: (mob) 07779 210531 • Ask for Dave. Email: cosmictcartwheels@btinternet.com Normal hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. Please check in advance if making a special journey.

KIT KRAZY Largest selection of plastic kits in UK from 1950s to date, plus much more. Collections bought or swapped. Email: steve@kitkrazy.com Send 70p stamps for lists to: 303 The Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 8DT. T/F: 020 8298 7177. W: www.kitkrazy.com

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GRA'S MODELS Corgi Gold Star Stockist. Many Corgi items stocked from the last five years, also other well known new and S/H brands stocked. 65 Scotsgate, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 2YB. Tel: 01780 751826. Fax: 01780 751826

LONDON

ENGINE 'N' TENDER Established 1957 all secondhand Model Railways, Scalextric, Dinky, Corgi, Spot-On, Minic, Lesney, Britains, etc. Open Thursday to Saturday 12-5.30. Contact: J M Buttigieg, 19 Spring Lane, Woodside Green, London SE25 4SP. Tel: 020 8654 0386

NORTHERN IRELAND

MY OLD Toybox For collectable diecast and kits, Matchbox, Dinky, Corgi, Action Man, Star Wars, sci-fi, Subbuteo, etc. The Old Toybox, Unit 14, Smithfield Market, Belfast BT1 1JE. Tel: 07719 100483 Email: james1gilliland@hotmail.com

com www.myoldtoyboxbelfast.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS

SPRINGHILL MODELS and Cards Stockists of Corgi, C.M.C., Minichamps, IXO, Base Toys, Classix, Oxford Diecast, Kyosho and others. Contact: Pete Skilton, 4 Springhill Lane, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV10 5HS. Tel: 01902 341302 Web: www.springhillmodels.co.uk Email: pete@springhillmodels.co.uk

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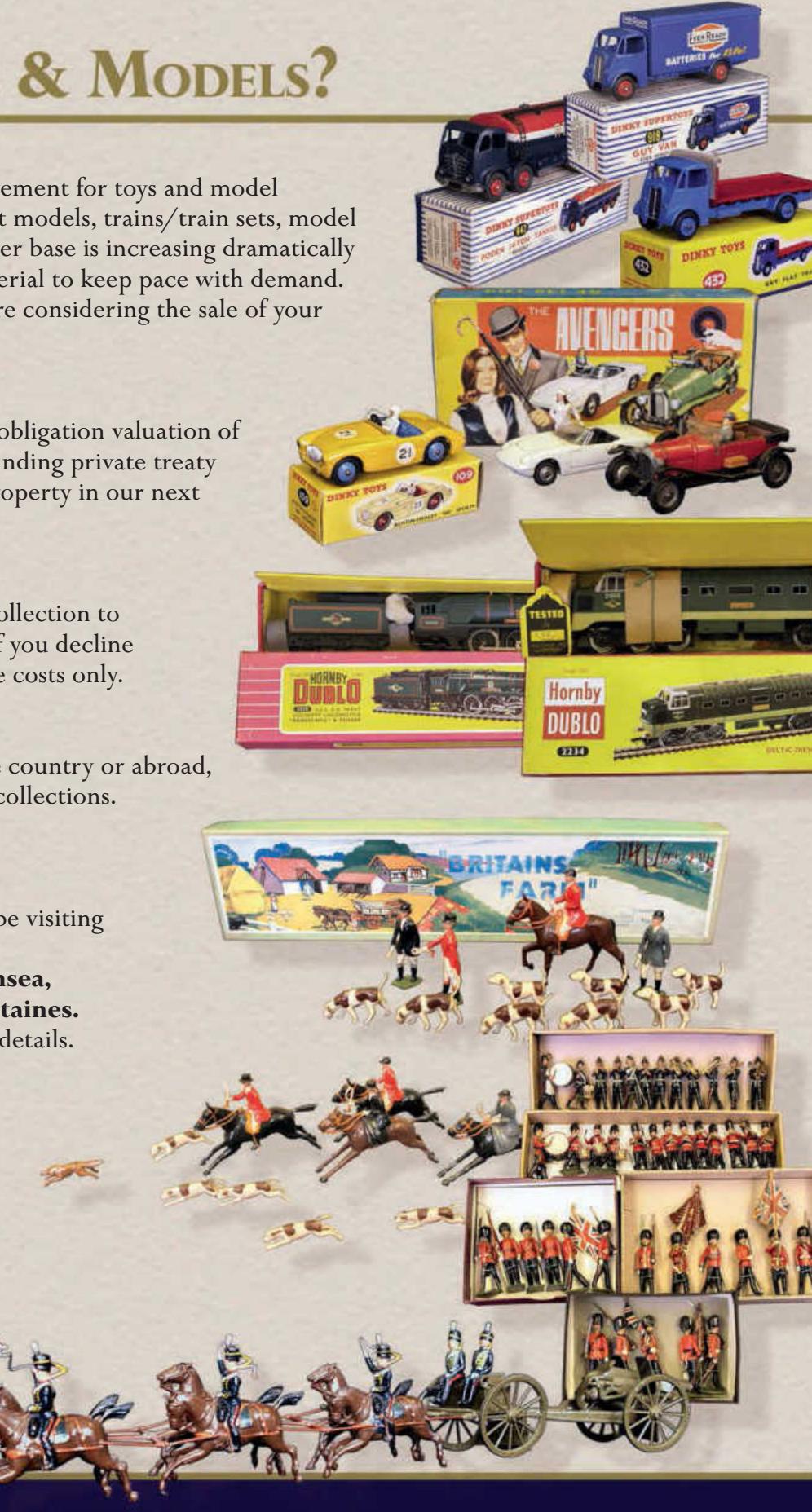
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